

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LV.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 26th April, at the Peak, the wife of HENRY WARREN SLADE, of a son.

On the 27th April, at "Greencroft," Kowloon, the wife of J. W. L. OLIVES, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 21st April, at St. Andrews Cathedral, Singapore, by the Rev. W. H. C. Dunkerley, HENRY J. W. HABEKOST, of Ipoh, Perak, to CONSTANCE MADELINE, eldest daughter of M. H. JOHN (Pilot Service), Singapore.

DEATHS.

On the 16th April, at the General Hospital, Singapore, WILLIAM STOCKDALE LANGFORD, of Penang, aged 44 years.

On the 20th April, at Murguia, Spain, GABINO DE URRUTIA, of Singapore and Manila, aged 47 years.

On the 21st April, at Tientsin, WILLIAM HENDERSON FORBES.

On the 24th April, at his residence, "The Castle," OSCAR WEGENER, aged 44 years, deeply regretted.

On the 27th April, at No. 30, North Szechuen Road, Shanghai, DAVID BUCHANAN, Superintendent of the Shanghai Tug Boat Co., aged 53 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 29th March arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 27th April (29 days); and the German mail of the 1st April arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Prinz Regent Luitpold*, on the 2nd May (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Scarlet fever, hitherto prevalent amongst natives in Peking, has now appeared in the European quarters, an Italian soldier having been attacked in barracks by the disease.

The hearing of the appeal case of Iba Sotaro, who assassinated Mr. Hoshi Toru, came off in the Tokyo Court of Appeal on the 19th ult. A sentence of penal servitude for life was again passed.

Admiral Alexieff, Russian Governor-General, of Port Arthur, has left there and is crossing Siberia on his way home, having been ordered to present himself before the St. Petersburg Government.

It is reported from Lisbon that Portugal is seeking from China a recognition of her sovereignty over the islands in the neighbourhood of Macao and also the establishment of a neutral zone.

When Admiral Ito returns to Tokyo and his report on the recent inspection of the Standing Squadron is laid before the Japanese Emperor, a good many changes are expected to be made in the organisation of the Fleet.

Japanese papers understand that at the conclusion of his mission to England, Prince Komatsu will visit Russia, and return home via the Siberian Railway. He is expected to reach Port Arthur about September 20th.

L'Echo de Chine says a rebellion has broken out at Chungchou, near Amoy. The people filled with alarm are fleeing to Amoy to escape the robbers. The Viceroy, Son, has sent the Tao-tai Ho Pi-heou with soldiers to protect Changtefu.

The *Daily Mail* says that as a result of the Manchester deputation the China tariff will probably be fixed at only ten per cent. Also, the contracting nations are empowered to revert to the old tariff if China does not fulfil her obligations. Lord Lansdowne's decision is expected in a few days.

Our Swatow correspondent telegraphed, under date 1st May, 8.25 p.m.:—"The steamship *Hoimoon* has been lost. Her captain and engineer were drowned." The s.s. *Hoimoon* was a small Chinese-owned vessel sailing under the German flag. She was bound for Port Arthur and was apparently lost during one of the fogs now prevalent along the Kwangtung and Fohkien coast.

The probable Chinese Ministers to Russia, Italy, and Belgium are said to be Sun Pao-chi, a well known Northern expectant *taotai*; Liu Yu-lin, *taotai*; and Li Yu-sen, expectant *taotai*. On the other hand, it is rumoured that, on the score of economy, the Department of State Affairs is considering the question of sending one man only to Italy and Belgium, who shall reside six months in Rome and six months in Brussels.

A recent number of the *Japan Mail* says that the bandits have been having a bad time in Formosa after their recent success against a Japanese force of police. On the 7th they were surrounded in their fastness by a detachment of soldiers. The well known leader, Liu Tentai, was shot and all the rest were killed or captured. A number of small arms and a quantity of ammunition were also taken. Only one rebel leader is now at large.

The Japanese in London have presented an address and caaket to Baron Hayashi in appreciation of his share in the negotiations resulting in the Anglo-Japanese agreement.

The *Jiji* says that there is a plan on foot to create a Japanese volunteer fleet after the style of the Russian Volunteer Fleet. This scheme has no connection with that of Lieut. Gunji, which is on a much smaller scale than that now talked of. According to the *Jiji* the fleet is to be composed of old-fashioned warships, which the Government will be willing to give up at moderate terms, and which are to be manned by naval officers from the reserves and by time expired marines.

According to the *Universal Gazette*, Yung Lu, Wang Wen-shao and Liu Kung-yi favour the abolition of *lekin* very much, but Viceroy Chang Chin-tung says that he admires the idea but fears that when *lekin* has been done away with, the revenue from the increase of duties on imported goods may be very precarious, and cannot decide what to do. In the opinion of Lu Chuan-lin, China cannot afford to abolish *lekin*, because not only the Central Government but the Provincial authorities derive their expenses almost entirely from this source of revenue.

Referring to the Hongkong report (given originally in these columns) that France wishes to purchase a portion of the Portuguese territory at Macao, the London *Standard's* Vienna correspondent states that France in 1901 offered to buy Macao. The Portuguese authorities viewed the proposal with disfavour and interpreted the announcement that France was establishing a regular consulate at Amoy as part of a settled plan to acquire both Macao and Amoy by some other means if she could not do so by purchase. There seems a good deal of exaggeration in this.

The Chinese Department of State Affairs is consulting with the Plenipotentiaries, Prince Ching and Wang Wen-shao, concerning the remodelling of the Manchurian provinces after those of China Proper. The idea is to appoint Viceroy, Governors, Treasurers, Judges, Tao-tais, Prefects, district Magistrates, etc. and their military equivalents, and also to raise three foreign-modelled Army Corps for the three provinces. Prince Ching, it is stated, approves of this scheme, but Wang Wen-shao opposes it. It is thought, however, according to the Peking representative of the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the remodelling of Manchuria is only a question of a short time.

With reference to the attack of the *Times* on the China merchants, which we discuss elsewhere, the *N.-C. Daily News* says:—"There is an impression in Shanghai that the condemnation by the *Times* of the opposition to Sir James Mackay's tariff scheme, of which intimation was conveyed to us in a Reuter's telegram of the 23rd ult., contains a 'threat' against merchants in China who do not approve of the scheme, but it is much more likely that the *Times* criticism is called forth by the view taken of the question by members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, for it is known through private telegrams that a deputation from that Chamber was to interview the Secretary of State about the 21st instant to express their dissent from Sir James Mackay's proposal. The *Times* is much more likely to be concerned about the opinion of Manchester than that of Shanghai."

THE "TIMES" AND THE CHINA MERCHANT.

(Daily Press, 30th April.)

It is no new thing for the "Thunderer" of Printing House Square to prophesy; but sometimes the oracle is apt to be led away by too previous information. The most curious instance that has recently occurred is of course that of Prince OUKTOMSKY and his presumed private telegram as "WANG Wu." The Chinese language is, no doubt, particularly unhappy when with its meagre syllabary it tries to get round a foreign name; and it would be difficult from the language merely to prove that WU WANG and Prince OUKTOMSKY were one, and the same person. It was of course foolish of the *Times* to state in so many words that Prince OUKTOMSKY and WANG WU were one and the same person, as it would be to conclude that JOHN SMITH of Regent Street must of necessity be one and the same with the JOHN SMITH who was detected picking pockets in Regent's Park. The *Times* had, however, quite sufficient authority before it received Dr. ULAR's information, to know that a private understanding had been arrived at with LI HUNG-CHANG, a fact which was practically acknowledged by Li himself. On the other hand, while it is of course possible that the WU WANG mentioned in Dr. ULAR's despatch may not have been Prince OUKTOMSKY, it would be equally impossible on the evidence shown to deny it; and the *Times*, with a good case, evidently injured not only the argument but itself by its haste to disclaim its informant. It is not, however, of the mistake fallen into with regard to LI HUNG-CHANG's traitorous dealings that we are momentarily concerned, but with a later exhibition of the same mixture of over-caution and credulity by its recent utterances with regard to the reception accorded in China to Sir JAMES MACKAY's proposals for reforming the inland taxes of China. When it speaks of the narrow shortsightedness of the opposition it has evidently been the victim of a communication as little capable of proof as its former equally confident assertion that the WU WANG of the telegram was the veritable Prince OUKTOMSKY. The merchants of China would be only too happy to welcome, even at a sacrifice, any scheme that gave them any assurance that it would in any way conduce to a reasonable settlement of this long vexed question; but Sir JAMES MACKAY's scheme is so subversive of every principle of government that has hitherto prevailed in China, and so suggestive of the bungling fingers of those who messed the Transit Pass system proposed under the Treaty of Tientsin, that before essaying even to discuss it they have challenged its professed author not only as to the feasibility of the scheme itself, but as to the sources of his information. These are things that are certainly more likely to be known by those who have felt the pinch themselves than by the Editor of the *Times* sitting in his office in London. It is rather a begging of the question to assume that the merchants of China are refusing to support the "wise" initiative of the Foreign Office. In the first place, what authority has the *Times* for assuming that the initiative is "wise"? We on the spot with direct means of knowledge look upon its main characteristic as folly. In the second place, why should the merchants assume that it is the initiative at all of the Foreign Office? For our part and judging from the character of the handwriting, we are far more disposed to assume, with better sources

of information than are possessed by Printing House Square, that it was concocted between Portland Place and the Inspectorate General. The foot may be credited with knowing best where the shoe pinches, and if the *Times*'s sources of information assume to know better than the sufferer himself, the sooner they are changed the better. In fact we have no hesitation in saying that the *Times* had been singularly misled as to the reasons which have conducted to the unfavourable reception of Sir JAMES MACKAY's proposals.

ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 26th April.)

Perhaps no better instance of the rapacity of the Chinese mandarin and the mischief that ensues from it could be given than that related in the last issue of the *N. C. Herald*. It is given by the writer on "Notes on Native Affairs," and is said to be the cause of the recent riots in the province of Honan. It seems that the Chih-hsien of Piyang was entrusted with the task of collecting from the inhabitants of that city the indemnity for the missionary outrages perpetrated there, as settled between the provincial authorities and the Roman Catholic missionaries. The Chih-hsien and his underlings evidently thought this was an opportunity not to be lost, and they improved upon it to such an extent that in the end they demanded from the people ten times the amount asked by the missionaries. Nor did protest or remonstrance avail to any degree moderate their demands. Three of the local gentry who had ventured to oppose the extortion as unreasonable were tyrannically placed in cages by the Chih-hsien and their death caused by strangulation. When the Yamén clerk,--an official who himself had grown opulent by systematic squeezing,--shocked at the sufferings of the victims in the cages, interceded on their behalf, he was curtly silenced and fined heavily. Upon the clerk remonstrating against the infliction of this penalty, the Chih-hsien, no doubt chuckling at the chance afforded to him, proceeded to confiscate half of his subordinate's property. This unjust treatment so roused the populace that they made a demonstration, which eventually took the form of an attack on the city and the murder of a number of converts, the popular fury being excited against the missionaries and their converts, who were, of course, credited with having been the prime authors of the extortion. The wretched Chih-hsien fled for his life, and thousands of refugees from Piyang have removed to Hupeh to escape the plundering violence of the mobs. Such is the condition to which the avarice and greed of one unscrupulous mandarin has reduced a whole district.

When it is considered that this is not an exceptional case, but that it is typical of the conduct and procedure of Chinese officials generally, it is not difficult to understand how it comes to pass that foreigners are hated in the Central Kingdom. We are not egotistic enough to believe that the Western man is loved for his own sake in China. His appearance, his dress, his manners, and his ways are all essentially strange and therefore more or less unacceptable to the conservative Chinese mind, which is very slow to acknowledge anything as an improvement on Chinese methods. But the foreign trader who brings with him a demand for Chinese goods, who opens up a vista of successful and profitable commercial transactions, is not unwelcome, at any rate to the large and

influential trading class in China. This class learns by degrees to regard the foreigner first with toleration for the good it derives from business done with him, and eventually it comes to look upon him as a source of wealth. This feeling and this experience are not, however, shared either by the officials or by the mass of the people living in the interior. Their prejudices, stirred up by the *literati* and the gentry against the missionaries, and fostered by the misstatements printed and scattered broadcast by mischievous agitators, like those who some few years ago engineered the anti-foreign riots in the Yangtze Valley, are always further kept alive by the exactions made on the plea of indemnity to be paid to foreigners for missionary outbreaks. The people do not reason out the matter; they simply trace their grievance to the cause indicated by the wily officials; and the result is a far-reaching hatred of the intrusive foreigner. They do not place the opprobrium where it is due. It does not occur to them to saddle the officials with the responsibility of the greater portion of the new burden of taxation they are called upon to bear. They only know what mendacious placards and lying tea-shop scandal put into circulation. The poison is soon distributed; the antidote very seldom follows. Only when a grosser outrage than usual or a sudden massacre rouses a Treaty Power to unwonted action is the truth reluctantly disseminated by official placards, the value of which is usually discounted by some ingenious explanation of the reason for giving it currency.

Thus are foreigners maligned in China, and hostility against them begotten. The mandarins fear their craft is endangered by foreign influence, and they oppose its extension with all the dead weight of their silent resistance. They have before them an object lesson of the ways of the Westerner in the administration of the Imperial Maritime Customs, and they love it not. They have no liking for explicit tariffs and regulated taxes; they prefer the multiplication of barriers, and the imposition of local duties of varying amounts. If they cannot collect all they want, they are open to a bargain, but they are most frequently a law unto themselves, and collect what they can safely squeeze. It is most probable that Sir JAMES MACKAY's proposal to raise the duties on imports to 15 per cent. by imposing a surtax of 10 per cent. would have been opposed by all the provincial officials from the fear that their squeezes would be endangered. They are not afraid of a sufficient sum being assured to the provincial Governments out of the taxes, but they are in dread lest their fat squeezes should be put a stop to. There is a vast crowd of hungry expectant officials in every province in China, and these harpies look to grow rich out of the vices and miseries of their fellow subjects. Quite a little army of these parasites would be let loose on the country if the proposal of the British Trade Commissioner were to find acceptance from the Chinese Government. Whether they might constitute a fresh danger to the state we cannot say. Meantime the question involved is a large one and should receive most thoughtful consideration. The total abolition of *lekin* has been consistently advocated for more than twenty years, because this tax has proved one long stumbling block in the way of opening up the interior to foreign trade. On the other hand, it would be a great risk to agree to a large increase in the import duties without first securing the most absolute guarantee for the abolition of *lekin* and other forms of inland taxation on foreign goods.

FRANCE AND MACAO.

(Daily Press, 28th April.)

The statement of the Vienna correspondent of the *Standard*, as conveyed in our London telegram appearing in to-day's issue, tends to substantiate what we wrote last year about French aims in this portion of South China. The report which drew this statement from the *Standard's* representative appeared in our issue of the 18th instant, when we announced that the French Government was again attempting to purchase property in Macao, the land involved being an area of 20,000 feet, for which the French were prepared to give \$37,000. Last summer, it will be remembered, an attempt was made to acquire the well known Boa Vista Hotel in the Portuguese Colony, in order that it might be converted into a French military and naval sanitarium. We were able then to be the first to make this projected move public, and we urged at the time that so significant a sign of French activity in South China should not be neglected. Whether but for this premature disclosure of the transaction the acquisition of the property by France would have become an accomplished fact it is impossible to say. Possibly Portuguese pride would in any case have prevented the transfer. Our publication of the news, however, made it impossible for the question to remain in abeyance, and we have good reason to believe that the British Government was actually prompted to diplomatic action. As the result of the whole affair, the Macao authorities intervened, and in November last themselves purchased from the owner of the Boa Vista Hotel the site and buildings, thus frustrating M. Doumer's scheme. It will be seen that the *Standard's* correspondent asserts that France last year offered to buy the whole Colony of Macao, a proposal which was not locked upon with favour by the Portuguese. Presumably this correspondent has some evidence to adduce in support of his statement, which claims to reveal a far more ambitious design on the part of France than was ever suspected. Until such evidence is forthcoming, it is necessary to suspend judgement. But the Portuguese authorities, if we are to credit the story, considered that France was definitely aiming at the acquisition not only of Macao but also of Amoy—"by other means if not by purchase." This addition may be dismissed as in the highest degree improbable, if not a mere product of the imagination. M. Doumer and his school of French politicians are not men to ruin their schemes by arrant absurdities. It may be taken as a fact that the impossibility of Great Britain tolerating a militant nation establishing itself within forty miles—or for that matter, within a hundred miles or more—of Hongkong is recognised by all sensible Frenchmen. As to Amoy, the French would have many nations to deal with there, none of whom are prepared to welcome an invasion on their rights. At present the Japanese are making vigorous attempts to capture, peacefully, Amoy—a proceeding which has already won them a considerable degree of unpopularity, following as it does on their sudden descent on Kulangsu and the native city from Formosa during the time of the crisis in North China. As for French action at Amoy, of course neither the establishment of a regular consulate nor the setting up of a cable station linking Indo-China with the Russian system is to be regarded as a ground for protest. Such signs of energy are to be watched carefully, but do not come in the same category as

the attempted acquisition of land at Macao. We cannot believe, however, that Portugal intends to allow any diminution of her sovereignty over her ancient settlement on the Kwangtung coast.

THE FALL IN EXCHANGE.

(Daily Press, 3rd May.)

The recent very persistent fall in the price of silver, which has been going on for the last two years, is again beginning to introduce an element of disturbance into the China trade, from which we had hoped it had finally emerged. After the Shanghai tael, which is of course the medium in which the larger part of the foreign commerce of the Empire is conducted, had remained for several years constant in the neighbourhood of 2s. 8d., we have now to face a continual but constantly accelerating drop, so that by past advices the tael is worth no more than 2s. 2½d. Those who remember former conditions when, deal he never so wisely, the merchant had frequently to stand by helpless while perhaps the result of a whole year's transactions was suddenly imperilled by the outturn of a single exchange operation, will recall the very serious impediments thrown in the way of business by the continual fluctuations of the currencies of China and the rest of the world, and are already beginning to stand aghast at the revival of the old sore. By apparently a curious coincidence the recent change has come about contemporaneously with a rearrangement of the Tariff, which perhaps fortunately has not yet been completed; and it may possibly be worth considering whether, before the new tariff is made finally specific, it may not happen that the coincidence is not so entirely accidental as might be at first sight suspected. As a fact China is now practically the only remaining nation with a silver currency, all the rest of the world having taken alarm before the last serious fall, and one by one conformed with the gold standard in use in the great consuming countries. India, Japan, and the Philippines are now to all intents and purposes gold countries. The Straits and the Netherlands Indies practically have followed their example, and the Chinese Empire is the only country of importance where the daily fluctuations of the silver market have to be taken into account in addition to the varying values of the articles of trade pure and simple. But the conditions of China in the bullion-markets of the world have within the last two years undergone a very serious change. China has been condemned to pay annually, in addition to former liabilities, to the rest of the world some four and a half millions sterling, and this has to be put up, not in her own currency of silver, but in gold, and to make matters worse, owing to the misgovernment of the country generally, its producing capacity has been seriously lessened. At one time China was an exporter of the precious metals, being able from her own production of gold and silver not only to supply her own wants, but to export largely in exchange for commodities imported. Foolishly, under the impression that the country was being thereby impoverished, a campaign was set on foot against mining enterprise of all kinds. This financial blunder was not so much felt at the time, as, by a curious coincidence, Europe began to look to the markets of China for her supplies of silk, while outside demands for tea, of which China then possessed the monopoly, largely increased. The consequence was that to restore the balance China became an enormous

importer of silver. A century previously the currencies of Europe had been largely silver, but under the increased demand for export to China, and the increased production of gold in other countries, it eventually came to pass that Europe by degrees introduced gold universally as its monetary medium. China, as usual, not knowing when she was well off, began herself to put obstacles in the way of her own exports, and so reduced her own capacity to absorb the silver of the rest of the world; and the natural result was that silver, which in the sixties had become enormously enhanced in value, became in the nineties a positive drug on the market. This position might have rectified itself in a reasonably short time but for another series of events; while on the one hand the area of accessible silver-bearing ground largely increased, on the other the cost of extracting the metal from its ores largely diminished; and the result was that while the demand grew less, the supply became greater. It was at such a period that China with her silver currency took upon herself to make war with the whole of the rest of the world. As she did not confine herself to civilised war, but attempted no less than the extirpation of every human being within her frontiers not of Chinese nationality, she came to condign grief, and in punishment for her crimes against humanity was mulcted in a sum which to her in the state of disorganisation and financial blunders was killing. Then followed one of the most curious complications ever recorded in history. China, defeated on all sides and driven to desperation, came to her enemies of but two short years ago and begged them to find the money to pay back her indebtedness to themselves by raising the duties on themselves and their trade. The absurdity of the situation, it is curious to notice, is only by slow degrees beginning to dawn on our newest financial experts. There is, however, another element in this most curious and incredible story which does not seem, even at the twelfth hour, to have entered into the minds of our somewhat bemuddled financiers. China has been condemned to pay her self-incurred debts in gold, while our financiers are plotting to pay her duties in silver—of all things the commodity she least requires. We are perforce to pump in silver at one side of the pond, while at the other we are engaged in extracting gold. How in the face of staggering trade is the transformation of the baser into the nobler metal to be effected? The exchange market, more sensitive to changes in level than our financiers, has taken alarm; and this it is not too much to say is the cause of the concurrence of the serious fall in exchange with the revision negotiations. China, as we have said, is the sole country where a silver currency survives, and it is already hastening to extinction. Could we not prolong the life of the patient by at least for the nonce putting her on gold diet? We only throw out the suggestion; its discussion is not within the possible compass of a single article.

The Japanese Match Manufacturers' Guild of Osaka and Kobe is taking steps to petition the United States Government to lower the rate of import duty to be imposed on Japanese matches imported into the Philippine Islands.

On the appearance of a plague case at Kobe on the 21st ult., the local authorities isolated 97 houses in the locality of the house where the patient lived, and medical inspection was enforced. The isolation area was reduced later on and 28 houses only were included in the order. General cleansing measures were started in the locality.

THE CORONATION PROGRAMME.

(Daily Press, 29th April.)

"Resident's" letter with regard to the Coronation celebration in Hongkong calls attention to some points in the programme drawn up by the Committee for the three days, June 26—28, which were bound to give rise to discussion. Nor would it serve any good end to attempt to stop such discussion. The Coronation ceremonies are the business not only of the officials and other leading men here, but also of the whole community of British subjects in Hongkong. We propose therefore to consider very briefly certain parts of the arranged programme. Firstly there is the call for \$30,000 to be devoted to paying all expenses in connection with the festivities, the balance going to "such permanent memorial of the Coronation as shall be hereafter decided by the Committee." Now it is not only in "Resident's" letter that we have heard remarks made about the Diamond Jubilee collection and suggestions that it would be better if the public were first to receive some account of the stewardship of the Diamond Jubilee committee. We fear that the disgraceful blundering in connection with the 1897 commemoration is bound to exercise a prejudicial effect on subscriptions this year if no further statement is forthcoming about the former fund. It may not be right to draw inferences from 1897 for application to 1902, but it is at least natural. Much has been written in the past in the columns of the local Press with regard to the Diamond Jubilee fund and the lack of any worthy return for so large a sum of money. Assurances have repeatedly been given that we shall some day see the objects of the subscriptions attained; but we still wait, with but a tardily progressing road to be seen. It would much stimulate public subscription if some statement were to be made by the 1897 committee.

To turn to another matter, "Resident" complains of the manner of appointment of the Committee, which, he points out, is the same as in 1897. The authorities would certainly have been better advised to have taken into their confidence the British public on the island before making a definite appointment. It is not a necessary part of Crown Colony government that the popular representatives should have been chosen for the public, though it sometimes seems so. Certain dissatisfaction also, we have reason to believe, has been caused by the announcement that on the 26th June at the meeting of the Executive and Legislative Councils, which is to vote a telegram to H.M. the King, only "invited guests" will be present. The size of the Council Chamber, no doubt, prevents any other course being adopted, but the selection of guests is certainly invidious, especially as the telegram, it is to be presumed, will be sent on behalf of the Colony, not of the Council.

Two minor questions, though they are not therefore to be disregarded, are raised by "Resident." The dangers attending the review of troops in the Happy Valley at the end of June are not negligible, and it is to be trusted that every measure will be taken to prevent catastrophes by sun-stroke, which, it need not be said, would completely mar the proceedings. With regard to the Levée at Government House, that is a matter for the Officer Administering the Government to consider, but we would venture to add our protest to that already made against the compulsory wearing of tall hats, frock-coats, etc., in the full heat of a Hongkong summer.

With regard to the fireworks, we do not

find ourselves in agreement with our correspondent. It is eminently desirable to make a strong appeal to the Chinese portion of our population, and in China pyrotechnic displays are a necessary concomitant of such great occasions as we are about to celebrate. As long as steps are taken to prevent any danger of conflagration of buildings, the fireworks are worthy of all encouragement and we are not at all certain that the European residents will be unappreciative. It may not be necessary to use the "Cricket Ground," (which is after all a recreation ground of the Colony), but it would be captious to object if it were; and captious criticisms of the programme are out of place. It is not too late to modify some of the proposed features, and it is for this reason that we have drawn attention to a few points.

THE NEW TERRITORY REPORT.

(Daily Press, 1st May.)

Mr. J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART's report on the New Territory in 1901 is, as he points out, the last with which he will be concerned. We are sure that the regret that he expresses at this fact will be shared by the mass of residents in the Colony. Nevertheless, we have always held and still hold that since the British acquisition of that portion of the mainland which was added to Hongkong's territory four years ago there has been much calling for criticism in the way in which the local authorities have gone about its administration. Mr. LOCKHART protests against the term "white elephant," which, he says, he has not infrequently heard unkind critics use of the New Territory. We have used this term ourselves, but only with regard to the dilatory manner in which the Government has proceeded to extract a revenue from the land. "Events have already justified," says the late Colonial Secretary, "the favourable estimate of its future which I formed and embodied in the report I wrote after I had visited it for the first time." We must be allowed to point out that in October, 1898, Mr. LOCKHART wrote that he anticipated no difficulty in raising, from the outset, an annual revenue big enough to meet the cost of administration. He then estimated the expenditure at a lakh and a quarter of dollars. Now in 1900 it was some \$243,360, with additional police expenses of some \$102,290; while the revenue was \$17,530. In 1901 the expenditure was \$534,260—an increase of over \$8,600. The revenue collected in 1901 was \$53,890, the Land Tax collection showing a large increase, as was to be expected. It will be seen therefore that the New Territory is very far indeed from paying its way yet, and that Mr. LOCKHART's sanguine expectations of 1898 are far from fulfilment. We have no wish to be considered captious in making these remarks, but coming under the charge of being "unkind critics" we desire to show that we did not criticise unjustly in the past. As Mr. LOCKHART says, it is imprudent to prophesy, and it is the over-confident predictions of 1898 which have been the cause of the criticisms of the past three years. It is with satisfaction, however, that we read of the more than trebling in 1901 of the revenue of 1900 and the signs of advancement in other directions. With the settlement of the land difficulties Mr. LOCKHART looks forward to still more rapid progress. This must be regarded as inevitable with so much energy in the Colony waiting for an outlet and so much money ready for investment. We are not among those mentioned in the Report, who decry the extension of the Colony of Hongkong.

We look, on the contrary, for the best results. What we have found fault with in the past is the slow manner in which steps were taken to turn the New Territory into a working concern. The Land Court with its elaborate machinery was set working but late in the day, and possible land revenues were thus thrown absolutely away. Little encouragement was given to industries which will turn the Kowloon Extension into a food-base for this city. The measures which are now being taken are excellent, but it is due to the lateness of their inception that the actual results so far from our acquisition of the Kowloon hinterland are so different from those which the 1898 Report encouraged us to look for. The benefits accruing already from the additional water supply in Kowloon and from the harbourage in Mirs Bay are not to be minimised, and with proper development of the latent resources of the New Territory we may join Mr. LOCKHART in proclaiming ourselves "staunch believers in its future."

WAR CONDUCT IN THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH AFRICA.

(Daily Press, 2nd May.)

The sensation caused in the United States by the evidence which has been brought forward at the recent courts-martial at Manila, following close upon the execution in South Africa of certain officers of the Bushveldt Carbineers for the shooting of Boer prisoners, furnishes an instructive commentary on the conduct of warfare at the present day. The investigations in the Philippines are not yet finished, so that it is not yet possible to say much about the revelations up to date. There seems no doubt, however, that opinion in the United States is strongly in favour of summary punishment of such American officers as have been implicated in any inhumane treatment of Filipinos, and President ROOSEVELT has shown that he will be no party to screening the accused. It is probable that the full details of the methods adopted against the Filipinos of late will show that the officers concerned were not acting without considerable provocation; but this is not held to excuse acts such as are charged against General SMITH and his subordinates. It is true that there is good evidence that worse atrocities were perpetrated in North China during the late campaign of the Allies there. But with an international force, unhappily, the divided responsibility seems to prevent any check being put on brutality and indiscipline. Consequently, though certain war-correspondents in North China were courageous enough to describe what they saw and to protest against the actions of the forces of civilisation, little enough attention was paid to them. In South Africa, after a continual stream of lying charges against the British troops and consciously invented atrocities of all sorts, certain men in the British service—irregulars, it is true—were actually found guilty of crimes against the laws of civilised warfare. The utmost penalty has been exacted, and as a result of Lord KITCHENER's firmness it is now beginning to be recognised that conduct such as the allied generals overlooked in North China is not conduct which the British authorities in South Africa have tolerated or are now tolerating. The British public has known this all along, and only disloyalists and fanatics have ever held otherwise at home. With regard to the war in the Philippines, great humanity for the most part has marked its conduct by the United States troops. Reckless charges

of massacre, torture of prisoners, etc., have been brought by those corresponding in America to the STEADS of England. The present accusations, however, seem to have a stronger foundation, and as was only to be expected, the immediate result has been a popular outcry for the disgrace and punishment of the guilty. No doubt much capital will be made out of the affair by the papers in America which, like *Life*, base their curious notions of humour on pictures of Boer or Filipino corpses under the brutal British or American heel; but the sentiment of the United States, like that of Great Britain, while averse to the methods of *Life* or the *Review of Reviews*, is and has always been against the conduct of war on any but civilised lines. Should the courts-martial now proceeding in Manila result in the production of strong evidence against the accused, we may be sure that the penalty will not be light. It is only in countries where militarism has been elevated into an idol or in actually savage lands that barbarity against foemen carries no disgrace.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 30th ult. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Major-General Sir W. GASCOIGNE, K.C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. A. G. WISE (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. McI. MESSER (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BEEWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. C. S. SHARP.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. C. S. Sharp was sworn in as a member of the Council in place of Mr. J. Thurburn, who has left the Colony; and Mr. C. McI. Messer took the oath as Acting Colonial Treasurer, in place of Hon. A. M. Thomson, who is acting as Colonial Secretary.

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY submitted Financial Minutes Nos. 13 to 17 and moved that they be remitted to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY submitted the Report of the Finance Committee, No. 4, and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I rise to give notice that at next meeting of Council I will ask six questions and I now lay a copy thereof upon the table.

The questions are as follows:—

PROPERTY RESUMPTION AND COMPENSATION.

Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary endeavour to obtain from the Indian Government a statement or return showing (1) the conditions on which house properties, sanitary and insanitary, and land have recently been resumed in Bombay and elsewhere in India, (2) the basis on which the values of house property and land were arrived at, and (3) the basis on which the compensation paid for resumed properties and land has been arrived at; and in due course communicate the information to the Council if the Honourable Member is not now in a position to furnish the required particulars?

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION—SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS.

Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether the Government will take into consideration the desirability and expediency of adequately providing for the decent housing of the subordinate Officials and Employees of the Public Works, Harbour, and Sanitary Departments and report to the Council?

MAP OF ROADS AND STREETS.

In anticipation of Government being asked to expose for sale Crown Land in Hongkong and in British Kowloon or to grant leases of land in the New Territory, and with a view to safeguarding against a repetition of the state of affairs in respect of roads lanes and buildings as that which now exists in Hongkong and Kowloon, will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council (1) whether a clearly and well defined Map showing Roads and Streets of adequate width has been or will be prepared, (2) whether such Map will in due course be submitted to this Council, (3) when approved whether the same will be recorded officially and shall not be departed from without the sanction of the Council, and (4) whether a copy of such Map will be deposited in the Office of the Sanitary Board for their information and guidance of the Board's Officers?

STREAMS, NULLAHS AND WATER COURSES.

Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council whether the Government will lay down a rule or regulation to come into force on an early date to be notified, to the effect that all streams, nullahs and water courses in Hongkong and in British Kowloon, the property of the Crown, shall be retained as Crown property together with a margin of 50 feet on either side from the centre line of the stream or nullah now Crown property and that the said margin of 50 feet shall not be granted or devised without the sanction of this Council and that the same regulation where practicable shall apply in respect of streams, nullahs and water courses in the New Territory leased by the Government of China to the British Government?

WATER SUPPLY.

In consequence of the daily diminishing supply and of the fact that the water is now only turned on in the City one hour per day, will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council whether the Government will take into consideration the advisability of immediately increasing the number of water stations along the Praya so as to give an increased supply of water and in some measure alleviate the inconveniences and sufferings of the concerned?

INCREASED WATER STORAGE.

Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council whether the Government has taken the necessary measures to temporarily provide, if it be possible to do so in the time now available, for an adequate or additional water storage capacity should there be a short rain-fall this season, so as to safeguard the ratepayers and the people from again next year suffering the inconveniences and evils arising out of a water famine, and state how much additional water storage has been provided, if any, since the 1st of January this year, and how much additional storage it is estimated will be provided between now and 31st January, 1903?

REPORTS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Harbour Master for 1901; the financial returns for 1901, the report on the new Territory for 1901, and the reports of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Surveyor, and the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for 1901.

FIRST READINGS.

The following Bills were submitted by the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL and read a first time:—A Bill entitled an Ordinance to exempt certain Crown Leases and Agreements for Crown Leases, and Permits granted by the Crown, from the operation of sections 3 and 4 of the Foreshores and Sea Bed Ordinance, 1901; a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance (15 of 1900); a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Ho Ngok Lan, alias Ho Ngok alias Ho San Lam; a Bill entitled an Ordinance to facilitate the hearing

and determination of claims to rent in respect of land in the New Territories; a Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Law relating to Dangerous Goods.

BILLS PASSED.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY:—The Bill entitled an Ordinance for authorising the construction of a Tramway within the Colony of Hongkong, the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the scope of The Tramways Ordinance, 1883 (No. 6 of 1883), and The Tramways Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1883 (No. 18 of 1883). The Council adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary, Hon. A. M. Thomson, presiding.

KOWLOON BRITISH SCHOOL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$550 to meet the estimated cost to be incurred for Personal Emoluments and Other Charges in connection with the establishment of the Kowloon British School during the current year.

Abstract.

Personal Emoluments.—

2 Coolies (1 at \$96 and 1 at \$84 per annum) for 10 months... .. \$150.00

Other Charges.—

Furniture 100.00
Books 100.00
Incidental Expenditure at \$20 a month for 10 months 200.00

Total, \$ 550.00

The recommendation was approved.

TRAINING OF NULLAHS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$9,000 to meet the estimated cost to be incurred for training the nullahs in the neighbourhood of the Richmond Road and Macdonnell Road during the current year.

The CHAIRMAN—The training of nullahs has been highly commended by Professor Simpson, the sanitary expert. This is only part of the cost. The total estimate is about \$25,000.

Hon. W. CHATHAM I think about \$25,000 or \$27,000.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—What is the cause or the necessity of retraining or training of the nullahs?

Hon. W. Chatham—I am not aware that there is any retraining mentioned. They are natural streams proposed to be trained for the first time.

The CHAIRMAN—Professor Simpson advises that this be carried out.

The recommendation was approved.

LIGHTING OF CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,400 in aid of the vote of \$9,000, "Electric Light Installation at Civil Hospital," under the heading Public Works Extraordinary.

The CHAIRMAN—This, I think, is a matter which was omitted from the estimates for the previous year.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—There was provision made for it in this year's estimates but when the work was attempted to be put in hand it was found that some portion of the Hospital had been omitted in making the estimate. This new vote is to enable the complete work to be carried out.

The recommendation was approved.

PLAGUE EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$250,000 in aid of the vote of \$10,000 for "Plague Expenses," under the heading Miscellaneous Services.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not know that I can do much more than read the minute which has been prepared by the Secretary of the Sanitary Board. As you are aware we have spent a great deal of money on the plague up to date, and it was thought advisable, instead of going on spending the whole lot, to get an advance voted for the expenses that might be necessary during the year. It does not follow, of course, that the whole \$250,000 will be expended, it is only an estimate of what

we thought necessary. The Secretary says: "We anticipate a monthly expenditure of \$70,000 for the next five months and \$10,000 for the last four months, making \$250,000 for the year; as only \$20,000 were voted for plague expenses in 1902 the extra expenditure will probably amount to \$235,000, and I therefore would suggest a supplementary vote of \$250,000."

Hon. C. P. CHATE—How much money has already been expended?

The CHAIRMAN—\$64,921 for the months of January, February, and March.

The recommendation was approved.

CORONATION ILLUMINATIONS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,000 to meet estimated cost to be incurred for illuminating certain Public Buildings in connection with the forthcoming Coronation celebrations in the Colony.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that on the last occasion, in 1897, the expenditure was \$2,377—so the Director of Public Works reports—and he suggests that this vote should be for \$3,000.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 25th ult. to consider the advisability of declaring Pakhoi to be a plague-infected port. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General (Vice-President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

The PRESIDENT—A telegram has been received from the British Consul at Pakhoi as follows:—"Bubonic plague epidemic at Pakhoi and neighbouring district." This was sent down to us yesterday; and I move that the Board recommend the Government to declare Pakhoi a place in which infectious disease is epidemic, so that medical inspection of ships arriving from there may be carried on.

Hon. W. CHATHAM seconded, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

This was all the business.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 1st inst. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General (Vice-President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Lieut.-Colonel Hughes, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Edward Osborne; Mr. Fung Wa Chun; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The PRESIDENT—The first business before us, gentlemen, is not on the agenda. It is a communication from the Government recommending that certain wells be re-opened.

The SECRETARY having read the communication in question, which was one from the Registrar-General,

The PRESIDENT said—Most of the wells that have been closed have been filled in with earth and rubble, so it is not quite so simple a matter as it appears to re-open them. I think members will agree, however, that the Board has no objection to the wells being re-opened provided that before the water is used it be analysed.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—Were these wells filled in because the water was found to be impure?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—By the Government Analyst?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Are you sure that is so? I don't think that in this case every well was analysed before it was closed.

Dr. CLARK—These wells were closed in 1895 or 1896, I think, but if each well is taken on its merits and the water examined, we might risk opening them in time.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—I think this is a matter involving a very great amount of risk. I think that the closing of these wells was not done without very good grounds for it; and it is a very risky proceeding to open them again. The

existing condition of affairs in Canton, I understand, is largely attributed to the fact that the inhabitants there draw their water supply from wells, and as regards the water supply of this Colony, it is serious enough, but I do not think it is in such a serious condition as to justify such a step. The returns for last month showed that the inhabitants of this City received an average of seven gallons per head per day, which, if my memory serves me rightly, is more than the Kowloon inhabitants receive under their system of full supply; therefore the supply of water to the City is not in such a desperate condition as to justify any measure that would be attended with grave risks to the inhabitants generally.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I think Hongkong is different from Canton. Canton has no drains whereas we have regular drains. If we should find the water impure we could easily post up a notice in the vicinity of these wells warning people that the water is not pure and only to be used for cleansing purposes. As regards the consumption of seven gallons per head, as stated by the Director of Public Works, we must not forget that this is the Tomb Festival and that large numbers of Chinese have gone into the country, otherwise more water would have been required. I am strongly in favour of re-opening the wells.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—There is no doubt in my mind that there is a great scarcity of water, and everywhere I go I can see large numbers of Chinese going with buckets to draw supplies from street tanks. These wells have apparently been closed since 1895 or 1896, for reasons we do not know, but I do not think that should stop us from re-opening them now. I certainly think some of these wells should be re-opened and the water analysed; if found to be impure, the well could be refilled in—not as Mr. Fung Wa Chun has recommended, to post up a notice. That would be no good, as the Chinese would still use it. Failing that, the Government might make more adequate preparations for supplying water from the mainland.

Hon. W. CHATHAM—With regard to the matter that Lieut.-Col. Hughes has just mentioned—I am out of order in speaking again, but perhaps it may be allowed—we are now supplying 365,000 gallons per day from the tanks on the Praya, and in a few days I hope to supply nearly 460,000 gallons per day, so that we are taking steps to increase the supply from that source.

Dr. CLARK—I am prepared to second the resolution proposed by Lieut.-Col. Hughes, that these wells be re-opened provided that the water be analysed.

It was unanimously agreed to re-open the wells, subject in each case to the approval of the Board, and the water to be analysed at least once a month.

AN OBJECTIONABLE WELL.

The Medical Officer of Health's report relative to the closing of the well at 85, Wellington Street was as follows:—"I examined the surroundings of this well and found it situated in a dark and dirty basement approached by a narrow lane. It is built of loose rubble and I do not see that anything whatever can be done to improve the water in it. I recommend that it be filled in at once but in the meantime a quantity of Cond's fluid should be put into the water, which looked very dirty. This will render the water safe for a time without destroying its value for cooking and washing purposes."

The Principal Civil Medical Officer minuted:—"From the report of Medical Officer of Health it is evident that this well should be closed."

Lieut.-Col. Hughes minuted:—"Close and fill in at once. There is little use in asking for an expert's opinion unless you abide by his decision. I do not agree with the Medical Officer of Health that Cond's fluid will render the water safe."

Mr. E. Osborne minuted:—"Close as soon as the rain comes. Meantime put Cond's fluid into it."

Mr. Lau Chupak minuted:—"I agree with Mr. Osborne."

Mr. Badeley and the Registrar-General minuted:—"Close."

Dr. CLARK—I am prepared, sir, to move that the well be closed at once. Of course I knew that "at once" meant after the meeting of the Board and that is why I thought it better to

have Cond's fluid put in the water, as it destroys the bacilli.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

MASONIC HALL EXTENSION.

An application was submitted for permission to erect a water closet and urinal in the extension block, Masonic Hall.

The Sanitary Surveyor reported:—"No reason is given why this water closet and urinal are required. There are already three urinals and one water closet in the Masonic Hall, and I recommend refusal."

The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—"Not necessary; there is one already."

Mr. Osborne:—"Grant subject to their providing a water supply by means of a well and pump."

The Director of Public Works:—"One water closet does not appear to me a sufficient allowance for an institution of this sort."

Dr. CLARK—I beg to move that permission be granted on the conditions specified in former cases, namely, that they provide their own water supply. If this is done I think there will be no objection to permission being granted.

Mr. OSBORNE—Does this mean that there will have to be a well and a storage tank?

Dr. CLARK—Yes.

The PRESIDENT seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

The return of rats for the city of Victoria for the week ended 4th April showed that 1,645 had been destroyed, as compared with 1891, 2,899, and 3,636 respectively in the three preceding weeks.

The Medical Officer of Health minuted:—"Since the cleansing of houses in which plague infected rats are found has been initiated the Chinese have put every possible difficulty in the way of the rat-catchers, and constantly refuse to receive traps, or spring them so that they are useless. I will report further on this matter after the end of this month and in the meantime we are putting poison in the godowns, stores, etc., and in all rubble walls where there are evidences of rats."

The Registrar-General minuted:—"This is what any one would have expected. I asked last meeting for a return showing the numbers of rats destroyed per rat-catcher in order to find out whether the employment of more was justified. Can this return be furnished for the last six months? I should also like to know the average earnings of these rat-catchers."

In an accompanying report it was stated that some of the rat-catchers in the month of March received as much as \$16 after paying for their messing and bait.

The PRESIDENT—The return that the Registrar-General asks for has now been prepared and will be furnished as soon as possible.

Mr. OSBORNE—I think, sir, we should not allow this matter to pass without making some effort to restore the number of rats caught to what it was before. It would appear that the Chinese have an objection to their premises being disinfected and put every obstacle in the way of the rat-catchers catching the rats. They fear that if an infected rat is caught, the Sanitary Board will disinfect their premises. It seems to me that we have got to choose between two evils; one is the danger of allowing plague to spread by means of rats and the other is the possible danger of not disinfecting the premises. I think there is a far greater danger in allowing the rats to go about the Colony than in stopping the disinfection. I beg to move that disinfection of Chinese premises where rats infected with plague have been found be discontinued at present in order that the rats may be caught in the same numbers as they were before.

Lieut.-Col. HUGHES—I am dead against that, sir. I consider that where a plague-infected rat is caught the premises ought to be disinfected.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I beg to second the resolution proposed by Mr. Osborne. We must deal with circumstances as we find them. It will be impossible for us to prevent the Chinese closing the traps as soon as the rat-catchers have gone away or letting the rats out if they are caught. We have to choose, as Mr. Osborne says, between two courses, and I think that the one proposed by him will be more beneficial to the community. I recommend that this resolution should be carried and

it should be notified as widely as possible that in future where infected rats are caught the premises will not be disinfected and that the Chinese should be encouraged to allow the same facilities as they did before. I do not wish to condone their action, but we have no help for it and must do just what we can.

Dr. CLARK—I hope sincerely, sir, that the Board will not pass this resolution. In fact I feel very sorry indeed that I brought this matter before the Board if that is to be the result. There is a matter of 9,000 or 10,000 rats being caught in Kowloon every week, and almost 2,000 in the City of Victoria. A very large number of these rats are examined bacteriologically and as a result of that, houses are disinfected and cleansed. Perhaps I should not use the word "disinfected" but "cleansed." We do not fumigate the house in which an infected rat is found. What we do is to put carbolic acid in the rat-holes, fill up the rat-runs and generally clean out the premises if they are in a dirty condition; but because there are some half-dozen householders in the Colony and particularly in the City who daily spring off the traps after having been put in and baited—if because of that the Board are willing to climb down and give up the work we are carrying on on the advice of a distinguished plague expert, then I think we should be doing an extremely foolish thing. The percentage of rat traps which are sprung off is comparatively only small. I brought the matter forward because I thought some member of the Board might be able to suggest some way of stopping it; but it is not in my opinion the way to stop it to do away altogether with the preventive measures which are at present in full swing, and which I think everyone must admit are having some effect upon the prevalence of bubonic plague. At this time last year there were 60 or 80 cases a week of plague. I do not wish to boast, and I have no doubt there are many circumstances at work which are keeping the disease in check this year, but I certainly believe—I grant you that I have come round to the opinion—that the rat has much more to do with it than I used to think. I have come round to the opinion that if we examine the rats which are found in the City and if we deal with those houses and those districts in which plague-infected rats are found we are doing a good work in the direction of the prevention of human plague. If we had to do away with that we may just as well give up sanitary work altogether and let the epidemic have full swing. It is Professor Simpson's opinion—and, as I say, I quite concur with him—that rat plague precedes human plague, and that has been borne out very clearly this year. If any of you care to see the map which shows the localities in which plague-infected rats have been found, and at the same time another colour showing the localities in which plague cases have been found, you will see that they tend to group themselves together and that the cases of infected rats are found some weeks generally—certainly some days—before the cases occur. Under these circumstances I think it would be far better to bear the ills we have in the way of the Chinese working against us. They have worked against us more or less ever since we have undertaken to deal with plague at all. There are a certain distinguished few of them who help us, but I am speaking now of the bulk of the population. They work against us because they have to put up with a certain amount of discomfort, and for us, because of that, to do nothing, would be extremely foolish. The mere catching of rats may help certainly, but it is not the only thing. One of the principal objects of catching rats, especially in a place where plague is endemic, is to ascertain the localities which become infected and then deal with these localities and so prevent human plague. On these grounds I strongly oppose the resolution and would ask members of the Board to give it their most serious consideration before passing any such motion which, as I say, will stultify our work during the past three months.

Mr. OSBORNE—After the Medical Officer of Health's explanation, I cannot do more than withdraw my motion for the moment and perhaps refer to it later on. The returns, however, show the startling fact that the number of rats caught has gone down from 3,636 to 1,645 in one week. The obvious deduction

from that is that if there is any use in catching rats at all we had better do all we can to catch them. If by our measures we are preventing the catching of the rats, it seems to me only reasonable that we should stop those measures that prevent the catching of the rats. However, I think we should quite agree with the Medical Officer of Health that we should do as our expert adviser says, and I am willing to withdraw my motion at present.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—How many rats have been caught according to the latest returns?

Dr. CLARK—1800 for the week ended the 21st. It has gone up for the last week.

The subject then dropped.

THE DEATH-RATE.

It was reported that the death-rate for the week ended 5th April was 26.9 per annum as compared with 17.6 in the previous week and 19.0 in the corresponding week of the previous year.

PLAQUE AT MACAO.

The following letter of date 21st ult., from the Consul General for Portugal relative to plague and cholera at Macao was submitted:—

"I am requested by the Colonial Secretary of Macao, in the absence of His Excellency the Governor of Macao, to state that there have only been cases of plague in the Islands of Taipa and Colovanne, and that the Government have taken all the necessary precautions against the disease spreading to Macao. He assures that there have been no cases of plague in Macao during the last week, and only two cases of cholera."

The PRESIDENT—The Board recommended the Government to proclaim Macao an infected port, but this letter has been received stating that it is only the dependencies of Macao that are infected. As Hongkong has not much intercourse with the inhabitants of these dependencies, there is no reason why we should not withdraw that proclamation.

This was agreed to.

LIME-WASHING RETURNS.

The lime-washing returns showed that during the fortnight ended 12th April 1,085 houses had been treated in the Central District.

CLEANSING IN KOWLOON.

A return was submitted showing that during the fortnight ended 19th April the cleansing gangs had dealt with 733 houses in Hung Hom and Yau-mati; 1,717 floors were cleansed, and 1,635 of these were also fumigated.

NEW HOUSES.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the proposed erection of two houses on Tai-koktsui Lot No. 707. The plans were approved.

CHOLERA AT CANTON.

Among certain correspondence relative to the prevalence of cholera at Canton was the following letter from H.B.M. Acting Consul-General there. Mr. James Scott, under date 26th April:—

"Referring to my despatch of the 2nd inst., I regret to have to report the death during the present week from cholera of three foreigners. Mr. Middleton of the Green Island Cement Co. at Kowloon developed the disease while on a visit to Fatsan. Medical assistance could not be procured and he succumbed. On the same day Mr. da Cruz, a Portuguese clerk in the employ of the firm of Rowe & Co., also died. He was taken ill the previous morning, but did not call in a doctor until 24 hours later. Everything possible was then done for him and he was brought safely through the worst stages of the disease, but died afterwards from weakness. There was a further death yesterday. Mr. Berg, the freight manager of the German steamer *Wing Hung*, was taken ill while the ship was on her way to Kongmoon. On reaching that port she reported the matter to the Imperial Maritime Customs, who advised her to return with all speed to Canton. She arrived here after 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning but the patient succumbed at half-past 10, before medical assistance could be obtained."

CHOLERA AT MANILA.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the prevalence of cholera at Manila. H. B. M. Acting Consul, Mr. W. H. M. Sinclair, reported that the total number of cases up to 8 a.m. on 22nd April in Manila and Bay was 433, with 336 deaths; and in the provinces 989 cases with 705 deaths.

This was all the public business.

THE CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

HONGKONG'S PROGRAMME.

A meeting of the General Committee appointed to make arrangements for the celebration in the Colony of the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII, was held on the 25th ult in the Council Chamber. Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C., the Chief Justice (Chairman), presided.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report of the Working Committee was sent, I believe, to every member of the General Committee, so I take it that you will hardly wish to have it read, but there are some little matters in connection with it that I should like to mention and comment upon. The programme, as you are aware, is that on Thursday there should be a meeting of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and that certain invited guests and the General Committee should be invited to be present, when a telegram will be sent to His Majesty the King. As regards the invitations, I understand that the Colonial Secretary, Mr. May, who will be here then, will undertake the work of sending them out. Then on Friday there is to be a presentation of addresses. I think there will be three addresses—one from the Masons, one from the Chinese, and another from the British residents in the Colony. As regards the last address we shall be glad if the General Committee would express some opinion as to what signatures should be obtained. Of course the Chinese will sign the Chinese address and the Masons the Masons'. Should the British address be signed only by British subjects or should signatures be invited from all except the Chinese? Unless I am mistaken, at the Diamond Jubilee the address was signed by all the people who desired to do so.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I would suggest that the same course be followed in connection with this address as was done on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee.

This suggestion was unanimously approved.

The CHAIRMAN—Coming to the next item, the turning of the first sod of the King's Park by His Excellency, I want to say that I saw a plan at the office of the Director of Public Works the other morning, and yesterday morning I saw His Excellency. He not only approved of the entire programme at that time but also said he hoped he would be able to be here at 5 o'clock so that he might address a few words to us sanctioning this whole scheme and expressing his intention of assisting it in every way; and I had hoped he would have been here; but, unfortunately, last night I got a letter from His Excellency in which he said that he had gone thoroughly into matter of the King's Park and found that there were greater complications than he had anticipated. Well, I understand that there are some difficulties, the nature of which I do not exactly understand, because I have not seen any papers recently on the matter. I understand that there is some conflicting claim between the War Office and the Colonial Government as regards some portion of the ground for this contemplated park. I can only say that personally I myself sincerely trust that these difficulties can be adjusted—though I do not know precisely what they are—and that they may be all cleared away before the Coronation Day. It has come rather suddenly upon me to-day, and I am not in a position to say that the cutting of the first sod of the King's Park will form part of the programme. I have been told since I came to this room, however, that Mr. Thomson, the Colonial Secretary, has been asked to make some statement upon the matter. I am sure we shall hear it with interest, because personally I may say I feel very strongly upon this subject of a park in Kowloon. I was looking at the paper yesterday and saw in the sanitary report the marked contrast between the death-rates of Kowloon and Hongkong, and it was stated that the connection of the overcrowding of houses and the death-rate was very intimate and that it might be expected that there would be found a great many more deaths in Hongkong than in Kowloon. The percentages were given in the report and it was made out that the difference between the two death-rates was owing to the greater amount of breathing spaces in

Kowloon. In Hongkong we have got to confess that we did not foresee as we should have done in the early days what this town of Victoria would require in this direction. We still have our chance of providing for Kowloon; and I can only say that I trust there will be no difficulty in adjusting any differences which may stand in the way of our having a permanent "lung" in the midst of Kowloon of the nature of a King's Park. (Applause.) I can say for my own part that I would rather have a small park than none at all; and even if we have the first sod turned of a small park, that would be better than having no sod turned at all, because a park is a park whether large or small, and is capable sometimes of extension; and I think it will be the general feeling of the Committee that if we cannot get a large one we should get a small one and be very glad to have something of that kind done. (Applause.)

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Secretary.—Sir, I have been deputed by His Excellency to make an explanation so far as the opening of the King's Park is concerned. It is very simple. The difficulties that have arisen in connection with the King's Park are not ones which would result in keeping back the park from the community altogether. It only means the postponement of the ceremony of opening the park until after the day fixed for the Coronation. As you are aware the military authorities have had a certain lien upon the lands which are to be enclosed as the King's Park, chiefly on account of the difficulties of the frontier, but these difficulties have been removed by the extension of the frontier, so that it is presumed there will be no difficulty with regard to ultimately obtaining the land for the King's Park. The Director of Public Works and myself were consulted by His Excellency this morning as to the advisability of having the actual ceremony of turning the first sod during the period of the Coronation festivities, and we advised him as the matter was not settled that it would be just as well to postpone it, but I think it may be taken for granted that some time in the future this park will be devoted to the community as the King's Park and will always be known as having been bestowed upon the community on account of the Coronation.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.—I certainly think the present opportunity should not be missed of acquiring this public park for recreation purposes and for all nationalities, as Causeway Bay ground was appropriated by Ordinance and is now called the Queen's Recreation Ground as having been acquired at the Diamond Jubilee. The necessity for a "lung" space on the opposite side is most pressing and it is most desirable. I think that the time should not be delayed, and I would move that a letter be sent from the General Committee to the Officer Administering the Government asking that the necessary instructions be applied for from home and that the ground should be set aside for this purpose, and the first sod cut on the Coronation Day.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.—Sir, I beg to second the resolution. From the information so kindly afforded us by the Acting Colonial Secretary, it appears to me that there can be no substantial objection to the ceremony of turning the sod being performed on the Coronation Day. We have his assurance that the matter will certainly be arranged some time and the ground will certainly be devoted to the public as a park. But at the same time it seems to me that on so grand an occasion as the Coronation Day we should have the park at all events formally dedicated to the public; and I am sure the public of Hongkong of all denominations and races would rejoice that the park, though it were only a small one, had been dedicated to the public for the public good on this occasion.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON.—Sir, I am sure I have absolutely no objection to the resolution proposed but I think I may not have impressed upon the General Committee that the General is most anxious that it should be devoted as a public park and that the ultimate result of the matter does not lie in his hands.

Hon. W. CHATHAM, Director of Public Works, said.—Before this is put to the meeting, Sir, I wish just to mention that His Excellency occupies a very delicate position in the

matter, and whilst very anxious to do everything in his power to secure the use of this ground in future as a public park he feels that he might be placed in a very difficult position in regard to it. He wishes, in particular, to avoid anything of the nature of what happened in connection with the line of action which General Black took in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It will be remembered by most of those present that General Black approved of everything and allowed everything to go through as if it were in order, and that afterwards he as General Officer Commanding took up a different position in regard to the Jubilee road and it was only with the greatest difficulty that the road was ultimately got through, having to be modified to suit the military requirements to some extent. His Excellency is very anxious to avoid anything of that sort and he is not a free agent in the matter. The real authority in the matter is the War Department at home, and without sanction from the War Department it is quite impossible for him to move in this matter unless at the risk of afterwards having to go back upon what he has done. Therefore, I think that should be borne in mind in considering this matter.

The CHAIRMAN.—Am I to understand that there are no claims upon the 11 acres?

Hon. Mr. CHATHAM.—Yes; that matter forms the subject of negotiations which have been going on for some months between the Colonial Government and the War Department.

The CHAIRMAN.—I understand that it is proposed now that the Hon. Secretary be asked to write to the Civil Government expressing the trust that they will use every endeavour to remove any difficulties which lie between the great desire of the Committee and the people of Hongkong that there should be a King's Park, and existence of that park.

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD.—And get instruction by telegram from home.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes; and that the Secretary of State might be asked to send a telegraphic reply as to whether this could not be authorised. Of course that will lie between the Secretary of State and the Secretary for War and if nothing is done now it may go on indefinitely for the next two or three years. (Applause.)

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN.—As regards the presentation of the addresses, I see the report says that ceremony will take place in the Council Chamber. I think it would be better if we substituted Government House, because it is the usual thing to have such functions at Government House. I have every reason to believe that His Excellency will have the desire to receive these addresses at Government House. It is not for me to say anything about whether there will be a *levée*, but I think I may say that His Excellency was speaking to me about this matter yesterday and expressed his complete willingness to have a *levée* on that occasion at Government House if the people would rather have that than a late function at night, and I said I felt very sure that the general community would much prefer having a morning *levée* at Government House when the addresses were presented. Of course that is a matter purely for His Excellency, but I think it only right to tell you in order to see whether you agree with me or not.

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD.—It was the course followed at the Diamond Jubilee.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am sure His Excellency will fall in with that, but I do not wish to say anything about it finally. Only I think I am not wrong in saying that that will be the preference of the people here—a *levée* to a late *fête* at night.

The Committee signified their approval.

The CHAIRMAN.—There is one item on the programme—the donation to British sailors, soldiers and police for a dinner. It is suggested that they should hold their festivities on this day. The Hon. Secretary has been in communication with Major Hamilton with a view to ascertaining the views of the commanding officers as to whether the men would prefer a small medal—of course of an inexpensive character—or a dinner; and the commanding officers of three regiments have expressed their desire that there should be a small medal. They think the men would appreciate that more

than a dinner. Perhaps we might substitute "medal" for "dinner."

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD.—Certainly.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. A. E. Hewett).—With regard to what the Chief Justice has said the commanding officer of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and Colonel Johnson have intimated to Major Hamilton that so far as enquiries had gone the consensus of opinion was in favour of the medal, more especially if the medal was not one of those ordinary Coronation medals but a distinctly Hongkong medal. I have shown them the medal that Sir William Robinson gave the members of the committee at the Diamond Jubilee and they thought that something of the same sort would prove suitable and be appreciated by the men; the obverse bearing, as usual, the head of the King or the heads of the King and Queen combined, and the reverse something similar to the design of the one I have mentioned. Of course it is quite impossible in these circumstances if we decide to give this medal to get it in time, as we cannot order it by telegraph. But I understand that is a detail; if the medals arrive in a month or two after the Coronation that will meet the case.

The CHAIRMAN.—What would be the cost of the medals?

HON. SECRETARY.—I estimate about £400.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY.—What would the metal be?

HON. SECRETARY.—Bronze.

The CHAIRMAN.—Would it meet your views, gentlemen, to leave this matter of the two alternatives open and allow the Committee to decide one way or the other.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.—I think it would be safer to leave it in the alternative.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX.—I think that would be better.

The proposal was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN.—As regards the treat to the children on Saturday, His Excellency very kindly told me that if he thought it would give the children any pleasure he would go down and present the medals. We are not in a position to report definitely upon that, however.

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD.—With reference to the recommendations in connection with the illuminations and fire-works I think it would be a mistake to have these. The fact of there being illuminations and fire-works would attract thousands, tens of thousands, of Chinese to this Colony, and plague at that time may be rampant—let us hope it is not—but it may; and in the best interests of the Colony I think it would be a big mistake to have these illuminations and fire-works.

The CHAIRMAN.—I may say, sir, that the Committee considered that matter carefully; the letter you very kindly sent was an assistance to us. You suggested the joint difficulties of the water supply and the plague, but of course probably by that time, I think, we shall be hoping that we shall not have any dearth of water by 26th June; and as regards plague, I am told by some of the members of the Sanitary Board—I see some present to-day—that if we have the plague at all it has generally got about as bad as it gets before that time and is on the mend, and they do not seem to think that any number of Chinese would come down from Canton to see fire-works or that there would be very much danger from plague. It seemed to be the very general opinion of the General Committee that we should have these. It gives an immense deal of pleasure to many people who could not perhaps appreciate some of the higher pleasures and it was the unanimous feeling that we should have these illuminations and fire-works. Of course it is open to any member of the Committee to say he does not approve that recommendation.

The matter then dropped, and the recommendation of the Committee was understood to be approved, though no vote was taken.

The CHAIRMAN.—In the latter part of the report it is stated that the Hon. Secretary and Mr. V. H. Deacon had been asked to draft the address to the King. We all know the excellent draughtsman Mr. Deacon is. (Applause.) But one of the many of the day's surprises in connection with this matter is that Mr. Deacon has undertaken to draft the address for the Masons. That, I believe, requires a man with a particularly special ability, one acquainted with the technicalities and phraseology of the craft, and Mr. Deacon, I think, is rather under

the impression that it would not do for him to try two distinct addresses as his ideas might run in the same direction in both. It has now been arranged that Mr. E. H. Sharp should be associated with Mr. Hewett, our Hon. Secretary, in drafting out the address, and I have no doubt between the two we shall get something very excellent. I therefore propose that the name of Mr. E. H. Sharp be substituted. (Applause.)

This was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—The only other thing I need trouble you about is the question of subscriptions—should everybody be asked to subscribe or should we simply confine the lists to British subjects—for it is a British King—and to the Chinese, who are very loyal and form a very large portion of the people of this Colony, or should we ask foreign subjects to subscribe; of course we would not refuse any subscriptions which were offered. On the previous occasion I think others were not asked to subscribe.

After some desultory conversation had taken place on the subject,

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD said—I should follow the same course as was followed in the case of the Diamond Jubilee.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that is the best way. Certainly Sir Thomas Jackson will be able to give us information on the point.

The suggestion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—In order to facilitate matters the Hon. Secretary showed me this afternoon a notice proposed to be put in the Press and I shall now ask him to read it as amended, so that it may meet with the approval of the Committee and also that it may enable us to state the estimated amount required. I think myself we should say \$30,000. I think less than that would not be sufficient. I trust we shall get more than that.

The HON. SECRETARY proceeded to read the notice, which appears elsewhere.

Some discussion arose over the paragraph at the end of the report which deals with the tea to be given on Saturday to the children of the Diocesan School, the French and Italian Convents and Baxter School. The question at issue, which was raised by the Dr. Ho Kai, was whether the Diocesan School, as only partly a charity school, should partake of the treat. It was agreed, by 17 votes to 2, to retain it on the list.

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD—As regards the fire works and illuminations—

The CHAIRMAN—I understood that had been disposed of.

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD—If we were living in ordinary times, I should not suggest them being omitted, but in view of the fact that we are in exceptional times, in times that are not normal, I have to submit that in the interests of the Colony they should be omitted at present. Judging from experience when fireworks and illuminations have taken place here the Chinese have flocked here in tens of thousands from the mainland and Canton; and I think it is not desirable that we should have such an influx of people, especially of the description of those who come on these occasions, in the month of June this year, seeing that we are not yet out of the wood.

The CHAIRMAN—I imagined that had been settled.

Hon. Mr. THOMSON—I do not think it is quite certain that tens of thousands have been attracted here.

Hon. Mr. HATHAM—The feelings expressed at our Working Committee were that it would not be attended with any great risk. The epidemic was then either at its head or over and the attendance of any number of extra Chinese would produce no effect on the course of the plague.

The CHAIRMAN—It was carefully considered by the Committee. They did not seem to be at all impressed with the danger to the community; if it had been in April or early in the year, when plague begins, or in March, I think there might have been a different decision.

Hon. Mr. WHITEHEAD—Possibly the Senior Chinese Member might give us his views?

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I think there is no grave danger connected with it at all. I do not think the Chinese would be attracted so very much, and towards the end of June I think it is certainly late in the season, and we generally

get the plague here before that or it is going away just at that time. I do not think there will be very much risk.

The CHAIRMAN—It will be possible to reconsider that question if there is a tremendous outbreak of plague. I am in the hands of this Committee entirely, but that is what the Working Committee thought.

The recommendation was approved, and after transacting some business of detail the Committee adjourned.

In addition to the contingent of Volunteers which is going to London shortly to represent the Colony at the Coronation, the following officers, non-commissioned officers and men will participate in the processional ceremonies:—

Hongkong and Singapore Battalion Royal Artillery:—2 non-commissioned officers and 6 gunners.

Hongkong Regiment:—1 native officer, Subadar Major Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., 2 non-commissioned officers, and 11 men.

Hongkong Submarine Miners:—2 non-commissioned officers and 4 men.

1st Chinese Regiment:—1 British officer, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 12 men.

The local Police Force will, it is understood, be represented by those now on leave in England.

SIR FRANCIS LOVELL'S VISIT.

On the 1st inst. at the Hongkong Hotel a dinner was given by Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health for this Colony, to enable the local medical men and the Press to meet Sir Francis Lovell, C.M.G., who has been making a few days' stay in Hongkong in connection with his mission to rouse Colonial interest in the London School of Tropical Medicine. We give below some account of Sir Francis Lovell's work. Sir Francis Lovell has received telegrams expressing the satisfaction felt in Singapore, Penang, and the Native States at the progress of the scheme. Equal success may be looked for in Hongkong, we hope, for of the merits of the scheme there can be no doubt and the question of the public health in the Colonies, which the School of Tropical Medicine makes its special study, is one which vitally interests us here.

The following guests were invited to meet Sir Francis Lovell:—Professor Simpson, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Deputy Inspector-General Drew, R.N., Major Whitty, R.A.M.C., Dr. Hartigan, Dr. Rennie, Dr. Harston, Dr. R. Gibson, Dr. Swan, Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Thomson, Dr. Laing, Dr. Pearce, Dr. Krieg, Dr. Kerr, Dr. Maclean Gilson, Mr. A. Cunningham, Mr. P. W. Sergeant (Editor of the *Daily Press*), Mr. T. H. Reid (Editor of the *China Mail*), and Mr. F. F. Skerrett (Editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*). After dinner had been despatched, on the introduction of Dr. Clark,

Sir FRANCIS LOVELL said—“Dr. Clark and Gentlemen, I wish in the first place to express to Dr. Clark my hearty thanks for inviting me here this evening to meet so many of my colleagues in the medical profession, and thus giving me this opportunity and pleasure not only of making the acquaintance of many whom I have not previously met, but of discussing with my colleagues in Hongkong the best means of insuring the success of my mission in connection with the London School of Tropical Medicine in this Colony.” After referring to the assistance given to him by the Press in those parts of the world which he had visited, Sir Francis Lovell continued: “It is not my intention to weary you with a lengthy account of the origin of the School, its aims, objects, and the work that has been done by it—these are all familiar to you and there are amongst us this evening some gentlemen who have availed themselves of the course of study the School offers and who are therefore intimately acquainted with it. I will briefly refer to its origin and relate to you the details of my mission on its behalf. The School owes its origin to the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who, with the object of affording instruction in tropical medicine to Medical Officers in the Colonial service, invited the Committee of Management of the Seamen's Hospital Society to establish the School in connection with their hospitals. In accepting Mr. Chamberlain's invitation and with a view of still further increasing the usefulness of the

School, the Committee resolved to throw it open to all medical graduates who might wish to avail themselves of the exceptional facilities which it, together with their hospitals, affords for the study of this particular branch of medicine. The reasons for, and the advantage of enlarging the scope of the School are obvious. Previous to its inception there were no adequate means whereby private practitioners or medical missionaries about to proceed to the tropics could acquire special information concerning, or obtain practical instruction in, an important section of the diseases they would be called upon to treat. Without his initiative and without his sympathy and active support the hopes of many of us could not have been so speedily and effectively realised. Apart from philanthropic and scientific considerations, as a piece of practical statesmanship, it may confidently be predicted that the future will prove that, of the many public measures Mr. Chamberlain has instituted and advocated, the London School of Tropical Medicine is by no means the least promising or the least important. The action thus taken in establishing the School by Mr. Chamberlain was instigated by the medical adviser to the Colonial Office, Dr. Patrick Manson, C.M.G., a name well known in this part of the world, and you will, I know, gentlemen, all concur with me in expressing our sincere sympathy with Dr. Manson and his family in the sad loss they have recently sustained by the death of their promising eldest son who although only at the threshold of his career in the medical world had already proved himself an able disciple of his distinguished father. Equally interested in the School, and a member of its teaching staff is Professor W. J. Simpson, whom I have the honour and pleasure of seeing here this evening, and connected also with Dr. Manson and Professor Simpson as lecturers in the School is Dr. James Cantlie, who made his mark here some years ago and is well known to us all. These names alone will suffice to serve as a guarantee that the work undertaken by the School is in the hands of competent men. Gentlemen, to detail the progress made by the School, since its opening on the 1st October, 1899, however interesting, would take too long—briefly the success of the School is assured. The work that has been achieved, both research and ordinary clinical and bacteriological, has been amply recognised by the Profession, the number of students has steadily increased and the time has arrived when steps must be taken for its enlargement. The present school buildings are far too small, whether from a tutorial or from a research point of view—there is therefore imperative necessity for their extension. The laboratory and library should be doubled in size. Research laboratories, a lecture-theatre, a mosquitorium and a museum are required. The residential accommodation should also be much increased; at present there is only room for six resident students; there should be accommodation for twenty. More travelling scholarships, similar to that so generously endowed by Mr. J. C. Craggs and known as the “Craggs Research Scholarship” are wanted. An assistant demonstrator is required. If the progress which has been made up to the present time is to be maintained, more funds must be forthcoming. The improvements and additions so urgently required in order to render the school fully efficient and to give the medical profession the full advantage of the teaching and material which the School affords are absolutely necessary. For this purpose it is estimated that £10,000 would suffice, but it is hoped that the school may be endowed to the extent of £100,000 at least. With great liberality the West has established the London School of Tropical Medicine and it is now thought that an appeal to the wealthy and influential residents in the East for its further extension should be made. So far it has been self-supporting. With these objects in view the Committee of Management with the full concurrence of the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies resolved to accept my offer to proceed to India and the tropical colonies, especially where diseases peculiar to hot climates prevail, and to bring to the notice of the various Governments and of influential and wealthy residents and employers of labour the advantages they will derive from the school, to point out the marked success with which up

to the present time the School has met the objects for which it was founded, and to endeavour to obtain their support for its extension. I accordingly started on this mission last October and on my arrival in Bombay had to ascertain how I should proceed in the matter. At first I met with a good deal of discouragement. It was pointed out to me that things generally were in a bad way in that Presidency—plague and famine were prevalent—the cotton industry, almost the mainstay of the commercial world, was declining—many mills had already closed and many millowners were bankrupt—calls for pecuniary help had recently been very frequent for local objects and a list was then being circulated for subscription to the "Victoria Memorial"—these were all advanced as reasons why it was unlikely I should succeed with my mission in Bombay. However, after consultation with some of the leading members of the medical profession—European, Parsee, Mussalman and Hindoos—we decided to make an effort to obtain help for the School in that city. I commenced by giving an address on the subject of my mission to the members of the Profession at the Bombay University, and after some debate, resolutions expressing approval of the scheme and recommending it to the generous support of the Government and people of India were adopted. A small committee of medical gentlemen was appointed to collect subscriptions, and after a few weeks' stay in Bombay I was able to remit to the bankers of the School such a sum as was very aptly described by the Committee of Management as constituting the result of my visit there phenomenal. Encouraged by this, my next visit was to Calcutta where I spent the month of January, but there I did not meet with such support from the members of the Indian Medical Service as I did in Bombay, and on the whole the results of my sojourn in that city were not as satisfactory as one would have expected. I received much sympathy with and encouragement in the object of my mission from some of the leading native medical gentlemen in Calcutta and with their assistance succeeded in obtaining a few fairly handsome donations and was able to bring to the notice of the public the advantages all residents in tropical countries are likely to derive from the work that is being carried on in the School. From Calcutta I proceeded to Ceylon and there again I met with the same objections and difficulties that were said to exist in Bombay in successfully prosecuting my mission. I succeeded in obtaining from His Excellency the Governor the promise of an annual grant-in-aid for five years to the School on the condition that six students from Ceylon may be allowed every year to avail themselves of a course of study in the School without paying the usual fees. A Committee was appointed with Dr. Allan Perry, P. C. M. O., as Chairman and local representative of the School, and I am informed that in due course he has good reason to believe that substantial donations to the School will be forthcoming. I then proceeded to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States and am glad to say that my visit there has proved very successful. His Excellency Sir Frank Swettenham, as Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, has promised the School an annual grant-in-aid of £200 for five years on conditions similar to those proposed by the Ceylon Government. His Excellency further decided to place the Directorship of the Kuala Lumpur Medical Research Institute in the hands of the committee of management of the London School of Tropical Medicine, who will in future select one of its students who has distinguished himself in research work and bestow upon him this post, which practically amounts to a scholarship tenable for 3 years with an annual salary of £750, with free furnished quarters. I look upon this as the most important asset that the School has so far obtained. I travelled through the Federated Malay States and succeeded in getting the support of the Residents, from whom I received much valuable help; a committee consisting of Mr. W. Cowan, Protector of Chinese, as Chairman, Drs. Wright and Edgar and several leading members of the Chinese community, was appointed to collect subscriptions in the state of Perak, and up to the present very satisfactory results have been

obtained. In Penang a similar course was followed with His Honour Mr. Justice Leach as Chairman, Mr. Hunter, Treasurer, and Dr. Freer, Colonial Surgeon, Secretary, and the news which I have already received from the latter is most encouraging. In Singapore, two Committees have been appointed; one consists of a sub-committee of the Singapore Branch of the British Medical Association with Dr. Galloway as Chairman; the other comprises four or five leading members of the Chinese community and has for its Chairman the Hon. Mr. W. Evans, Protector of Chinese. Both these Committees are doing all they can to further the objects of my mission and have already met with much success. I have now come to Hongkong, gentlemen, and I hope that with your co-operation my efforts here to obtain support for the London School of Tropical Medicine will meet with at least as much success as they did in Singapore and its dependencies. I have hitherto found that it is most expedient to try and obtain the advice of my colleagues and others resident in any country that I may visit in regard to the manner in which I should proceed with my mission, rather than initiate my own manner of prosecuting it, and I propose with your approval to follow the same course in Hongkong, and I shall therefore conclude by asking you gentlemen to favour me with your views and advice.

Professor SIMPSON, who spoke next, urged the claims of the School of Tropical Medicine and referred to the great services of Dr. Patrick Manson, to whom it was due that so much initial opposition had been overcome, and of Sir Francis Lovell, who was carrying on the work. He spoke of the early difficulties of differentiating the diseases peculiar to the tropics and pointed out that now too, in default of special training, medical men coming out to the tropics must suffer great disabilities. These it was the function of the School of Tropical Medicine to overcome. Those who receive the School's training and come out to practice in the tropics, he said, will in the future be able to go back and give the benefit of their experience to the School.

Dr. CLARK then rose and proposed the appointment of a small committee to act on behalf of the School, suggesting the names of Drs. Ho Kai, Rennie, and Atkinson, with power to add to their number.

Deputy Inspector-General DREW seconded the proposal.

Dr. ATKINSON, in accepting his appointment, spoke of the advantages promised by the School of Tropical Medicine and proposed that Dr. Rennie should act as secretary for the Hongkong committee.

Dr. Ho Kai added his support to the School and promised the support of the leading Chinese.

Dr. RENNIE, accepting the position of secretary of the committee, spoke of the need of getting to work at once.

Dr. HARTIGAN then proposed the health of Dr. Clark, to which Dr. CLARK made a brief and suitable reply, finishing by asking Dr. Atkinson to make an announcement.

Dr. ATKINSON rose and stated that the body of Dr. Patrick Manson's son had arrived in Hongkong that evening and that the funeral would take place at 5.30 p.m. on Monday. He spoke of the sympathy felt for Dr. Manson and said that the pall-bearers on the sad occasion would be Sir Francis Lovell, Professor Simpson, Dr. Rennie, Dr. Hartigan, Dr. Ling, and himself.

The gathering then dispersed.

Sir Francis Lovell, C.M.G., arrived by the P. & O. s.s. *Sumatra*, in pursuance of his mission to awaken Colonial interest in and obtain additional funds for the London School of Tropical Medicine. So far the School has been self-supporting, but besides the funds which are so urgently needed for endowment, a debt of £4000 still remaining upon the School Buildings has to be extinguished, and improvements and additions have to be taken in hand at once, if the efficiency of the teaching is to be maintained. With these objects in view the Committee of Management resolved to depute an experienced member of the medical profession to proceed to tropical and other countries, especially those where diseases peculiar to hot climates prevail,

there to bring to the notice of influential and wealthy residents, and employers of labour, the advantages they have already derived from, and the aims and objects of the London School of Tropical Medicine; to point out to them individually the marked success with which, up to the present time, the School has met the objects for which it was founded; to prove to them that the time has arrived when the accommodation is too small for wants; that the institution has extended almost beyond expectation; that the additions and improvement already specified are absolutely and urgently needed, and to endeavour to his utmost to obtain their support.

Sir Francis possesses in an eminent degree the qualifications necessary to the successful fulfilment of such a task. He was lately Surgeon-General of Trinidad, formerly Chief Medical Officer of Mauritius, and has served in tropical Colonies in the East and West Indies and West Africa for the last 30 years. His stay in Hongkong will extend to two weeks and his object is to get a grant from the Government for five years and to provide for all the medical men of the Colony going through the course and studying at the School free.

The School owes its origin to the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, H.M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, who, with the object of affording instruction in tropical medicine to medical officers in the Colonial service, invited the Committee of Management of the Seamen's Hospital Society to establish a School in connection with their Hospitals. Already it has done an immense deal of good work and it is to be hoped that its effort towards extension and increased usefulness will get the support of the local Government. We notice that a number of gentlemen well-known in Hongkong are connected with the School. Among the Lecturers on the teaching staff appear the names of Dr. Patrick Thomson, C.M.G., Dr. James Cantlie, and Professor W. J. Simpson, and the first two are also on the hospital staff. The list of students who have passed through the School since 1st October, 1899, includes Dr. J. M. Atkinson, F. O. Stedman, and J. G. Thomson.

Sir Francis Lovell visited the Straits and Malay Peninsula before coming to Hongkong. He is satisfied with the result of that visit, which, he thinks, will add materially to the resources of the School. In the Federated Malay States he spent a fortnight, and succeeded in getting the wealthy Chinese interested in the School and the work it is doing for the alleviation of tropical diseases. In Perak a strong Committee has commenced work, and a fair sum has already been collected; there is every reason to hope that the total will reach \$5,000. At Kuala Lumpur the Medical Research Institute was visited. The High Commissioner, Sir Frank Swettenham, has arranged that the Institute comes under the Directorship of the School. This is practically equivalent to a scholarship, tenable for three years, of the value of £750 with furnished quarters. Sir Frank has also agreed to a grant of £100 a year for five years from the Federated Malay States and a similar sum from the Colony to the School. At Penang a committee has been formed, of which Mr. Justice Leach is the chairman and Dr. Freer the hon. sec., to collect subscriptions, and their labours are likely to be successful, handsome sums having been subscribed by Chinese and European firms. It is hoped that the Penang subscription will not be less than \$5,000. In Singapore there are two committees at work, that of the British Medical Association, of which Dr. Galloway is President, and one presided over by the Hon. W. Evans. Half a dozen firms have consented to give \$200 a year for five years. The Tanjong Pagar Dock directors have resolved on a donation of 100 guineas, and there is every indication that here also a substantial sum will be obtained for the School. The general result, Sir Francis thinks, will be that when the Committees have finished their work, the School will be richer by some £10,000.

The *National Zeitung*, in an article on the Whangpoo Conservancy, complains bitterly that Germany is inadequately represented on the Conservancy Board and refers to the predominance of the Anglo-Japanese interest.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League was held in the City Hall on the 23rd ult. Mr. M. W. Slade, Acting President of the Branch, presided, and amongst the other members present were Capt. Cocker, Capt. G. C. Anderson (hon. secretary), Messrs. G. Stewart, R. C. Wilcox, B. Layton, N. Mumford, A. Sinclair, and G. J. W. King.

The report and statement of accounts for the year 1901, which were submitted by the SECRETARY, read as follows:

REPORT.

The Hongkong Branch of the Navy League have to deplore the death of its President, Captain W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., retired; its Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C.; and of Mr. Robert Cooke, members of Committee, all well-known members of our community whose loss has been universally mourned.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., our late Hon. Secretary and Acting President, has left the Colony, but we hope to welcome him back during the present year. The thanks of this Branch are especially due to Mr. Pollock for his conduct of the business under considerable difficulties, and have been suitably conveyed to him by the Committee on behalf of the members.

We have lost the services on the Committee of Messrs. H. A. Ritchie, R. L. Richardson, and Captain S. Tillet, these gentlemen having left the Colony.

Mr. R. C. Wilcox, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, and Mr. D. R. Law have joined the Committee. Mr. Gershom Stewart has rejoined on his return to the Colony. Mr. B. Layton has been appointed Hon. Treasurer vice Mr. R. L. Richardson.

Your Committee have been in communication with the Head Office in London on the various subjects undermentioned, and their endeavour has been to keep the Head Office as accurately informed as possible of all acts bearing on the objects of the Navy League which have come to their knowledge, and to make suggestions made by the Executive Committee at home on the special reference to local needs and conditions.

- 1.—The increase of the China Squadron in view of the increase in the number of ships of other nations.
- 2.—Piracy on the West River and neighbourhood, and the necessity of an efficient patrol of the inland waters of China.
- 3.—The subject of a new Naval Defence Act in order to ensure a fixed and steady increase of Naval strength suited to our needs.
- 4.—The manning of the Navy and the creation of an Imperial Naval Reserve in which the resources of the Colonies may be utilised. (Subject taken up by Admiralty.)
- 5.—The fixing of definite responsibility upon the First Lord of the Admiralty in respect of any deficiencies in our Navy, and upon each head of Department for defects in his own department. No one to be permitted to take shelter under the collective responsibility of the Cabinet.
- 6.—The necessity for a firm Naval policy in China.

7.—The necessity of supplying our fleets with efficient colliers fitted for the work they have to do; condensing and store ships, hospital ships, and floating workshops, with special reference to the needs of the fleet in the China Station.

8.—The striking off from our effective strength of all obsolete battleships armed with muzzle-loading guns.

9.—The re-equipment of our Royal dockyards with up-to-date plant and appliances.

10.—The Naval Yard extension scheme and our local defences.

Members will doubtless be pleased to know that we continue to receive appreciative letters from Headquarters, with whom our relations are of the most cordial nature, and no efforts on the part of your Committee will be spared to maintain such a satisfactory state of affairs.

If, as we hope will be the case, you approve of what has been done by the Committee, we trust that every member will do his best to induce others to join this branch of the Navy League. It should be remembered that in supporting the Navy League you are supporting our trade and everything that makes for a strong and united Empire, which means peace.

G. C. ANDERSON,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 21st April, 1902.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

RECEIPTS.

Nov. 8, 1900.		\$	c.
Balance brought forward as per account of 10th September, 1900	1,134.36		
Dec. 31, 1900.			
Receipts Oct. Dec.	69.00		
Interest from bank	12.15		
Dec. 31, 1901.			
Subscriptions due for 1901	\$1.190		
Less amount uncollected	663		
	527.00		
Interest from bank, 1901	27.51		
	\$1,770.92		

DISBURSEMENTS.

Oct., 1901, to Dec., 1901.	\$	c.
Paid clerk for work done	60.00	
Jan., 1901, to Dec., 1901.		
Paid Guedes & Co., printing	111.05	
Oct. 22, 1901.		
Paid Kelly and Walsh, <i>Bussings' Navy Annual</i>	10.00	
Nov. 29, 1901.		
Paid H. K. Bank for draft on London, re- mitted head office, £35.10.6	376.93	
Oct. 5, 1901.		
Paid H. E. Pollock, various disbursements.	62.76	
Dec. 31, 1901.		
Balance carried forward to 1902.	1,116.23	
	\$1,770.92	

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, It becomes my duty, as Acting President, to propose the adoption of the report and accounts for the year 1901. I should like first of all to draw the attention of the meeting to the heavy loss which the League has sustained in the death of its President, Captain Hastings. In Captain Hastings we have lost one of the most energetic Presidents that the League could have. Only we members of the Committee know the extent and amount of work he did for the League, and of the whole-hearted devotedness which he threw into that work; but everybody who was present at any annual meeting must have noticed the vigour and the cheerfulness and the sound good sense which he displayed in his addresses to the meetings which were held under his presidency here year by year. Besides our late President, we have lost our Vice-President, Mr. Francis. Mr. Francis was always ready to give the League the benefit of the vast stores of information and the brilliant intellect with which he was endowed, and in these two men the League have suffered an almost irreparable loss. Our Committee of the League have lost we hope only temporarily—the services of Mr. Pollock, who left the Colony to enter the Colonial service in Fiji. We have hopes—though they are by no means certainties—that he will return here before the end of the year, and it is proposed at this meeting to elect him President of the League. (Applause) We have also lost the services on the Committee of Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Richardson, and Captain Tillet, all these gentlemen having left the Colony, and we have also lost Mr. Robert Cooke. Mr. Cooke, like Captain Hastings and Mr. Francis, has been removed from us by death. Mr. Cooke was a most unobtrusive and at the same time most useful member of this Committee. He had at his command sources of information which were of the greatest possible value to the League, and the information he had he was always ready to devote to the services of the League. Gentlemen, with these changes in the Committee—with the loss of no less than seven members of the League out of a total of ten on the Committee—the affairs of the League have been thrown into a state of something like confusion. That, gentlemen, is the reason why this annual meeting has been postponed until late in the month of April. It has been impossible for the new men who have been elected to the Committee to fill the responsible posts of hon. secretary and hon. treasurer, both of which posts were held by Mr. Pollock, to pick up all the threads and get the affairs of the League into working order, so that this report and these accounts could be presented at the annual meeting at an earlier date. Both our hon. secretary and our hon. treasurer deserve the thanks of the League for the very energetic and vigorous way in which they have worked to put all things straight. (Applause.) I may be permitted to say—though it may sound invidious to do so—that the thanks

of the League are especially due to Mr. Layton for the way in which he has tackled our accounts and placed our finances on a sound and proper footing. That is the result of putting a trained business man into the position of hon. treasurer, and our thanks are due to Mr. Layton for the trouble he has taken. (Applause) As to the work of the Committee during the past year, reference has been made in the report to some of the matters which have engaged its attention and on which it has corresponded with the Head Office. The executive business of the Navy League is carried on at home. At home the Executive Council is the body which does the direct work of the League, which directs the aims and energies of the League, which shapes its policy, which brings matters that are engaging attention before the Government at home, and which, if I may be allowed to use the word, influences the Press to a certain extent. To the Head Office go all the reports and the information that have been collected by the various branches of the League throughout the world, and it is the Head Office which selects and makes use of that information. The object of the League is the maintenance of the one power which can in time of stress hold this vast Empire of ours together, and this is the Navy. That is the sole object of the Navy League, the maintenance of an efficient Navy, and it is chiefly to be obtained by assisting the Government for the time being, by assisting the Admiralty—the Department which has the direct government of the Navy—assisting these two bodies by the formation of a strong basis of public opinion as to the necessity, the absolute necessity, for a strong Navy. (Applause) To us, out here, the necessity for a great preponderance in Naval force must be clear. We depend for our communication with the other nations of the world upon the sea; everything we draw from outside China is necessarily borne over-sea, and if our Navy were to fail, if our communications were to be cut off on account of the failure of our Navy, Hongkong in time must necessarily fall. Any resident out here who thinks—must realise the absolute necessity to us out here of an overpoweringly strong Navy, and I hope that residents in this Colony will come forward in future in larger numbers than they have recently to support this League, which has at heart the maintenance of their position, of their existence, out here. The Navy League cannot do its work efficiently unless it has the support of the community, and I hope every member of the League will do his or her best to bring in new members during the course of the year. At present we have 235 members and 37 associates; gentlemen, these numbers ought to be doubled in the course of the year. If only people would think of the objects, the intentions, of the Navy League, and the work it has done in the past, I think this wish of ours would be fulfilled. Complaints have been from time to time levelled at the Navy League on account of criticism of the Government and for doing this thing and that in season and out of season. Gentlemen, it is only by criticising, by striving after the ideal, that our object can be attained. Unless the League goes on in the course in which it has begun, unless it struggles to strengthen the hands of the Government by criticism—stimulating, strengthening, wholesome criticism—unless it does that continuously and consistently, the object of the League will never be attained. To-day we have an Admiralty, as far as can be judged from the information contained in the home newspapers, as much in earnest to do its best as has been ever known in the history of England. The necessity for a strong Navy has, I think, been emphasised by the speech delivered by Lord Charles Beresford before the London Chamber of Commerce. He pointed out in the clearest way, with all the authority of a distinguished officer who had only a few days quitted the command of a fleet—he pointed out several most glaring defects in our Naval organisation. Gentlemen, Lord Charles Beresford's speech, the speech of an officer of such high rank as he, is the justification for the criticism of the Navy League. Those points which he raised, and which he brought forward with all the vigour of which he is capable, with illustrations drawn from his own

experience, are points which the Navy League has for some considerable time past been pressing on the authorities at home—pressing without any apparent result. But I do not think that the efforts of the Navy League—the criticisms of the Navy League—are to be judged by immediate results. The mere fact that defects pointed out for a considerable number of years are unremedied by the authorities, is no proof that the official inaction is due to the falsity or the unjustifiableness of the criticisms. It only is by the keeping up of a continual pressure of criticism that the object of the Navy League can be attained. (Applause.) After making an appeal for funds in support of the Head Office, the CHAIRMAN concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Captain CROCKER seconded, and pointed out that when Lord Charles made his speech the other day, accusing the Admiralty more or less of inefficiency, he referred to the lack of coal on the Mediterranean Station. In future naval warfare it was not intended to accumulate enormous quantities of coal at one point, and there were several reasons for that. One was that the coal deteriorates; another that it might catch fire, and a third that it might be captured by the enemy. The idea now was to supply the Fleet from colliers which would be stationed at convenient places, and would go out and meet the ships.

The report and accounts were then put to the vote and carried, after which, on the motion of Mr. SINCLAIR, seconded by Mr. KING, the following gentlemen were elected to the Committee:—Messrs. M. W. Slade, G. Stewart, R. C. Wilcox, W. A. Cruickshank, D. R. Law, G. C. Anderson (hon. sec.), and B. Layton (hon. treas.).

The CHAIRMAN proposed the election of Mr. P. Llock as President, and this was seconded by Mr. STEWART and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

Five additional plague cases were reported since last Monday; four during the day ending at noon on the 27th ult. and one subsequently. All the sufferers were Chinese. One was found in Des Vœux Road and another (dead) floating in the Harbour near Blake Pier. The other three cases were at 308, Des Vœux Road West (2nd floor), 4, On Wai Lane, and 192A, Hollywood Road. The two former of these died.

The twenty-sixth and seventh cases of plague were reported during the day ending at noon on the 29th ult., the victims both being Chinese, one on the ground-floor of 11, Tung Loi Lane (dead) and the other in dust-boat No. 13 in the Harbour off Holland Street.

Four more plague cases, all fatal, were reported in the day ending at noon on the 30th ult. One was a Portuguese at 18, Belilios Terrace, and the other three Chinese, one found dead in Po Yan Street, one at 8, Tik Lung Lane, the third in a house at the back of the West Point gas-works.

Four more plague cases were reported by noon on the 1st inst., the victims being an Indian at 47, Des Vœux Road Central, and three Chinese at 468, Queen's Road West, in Gutzlaff Street (dead), and at 7, Wa In Fong W. (dead). The cases for the year now number 35.

Seven more plague cases, all Chinese, were reported by noon on Thursday, five of the victims dying. Cases occurred at 57, Staunton Street (two), 2, Fuk Luk Lane, 4, Tun Wo Lane, and 8, Square Street, and two were found in the street, one in Queen's Road West, near the Battery, and the other in Des Vœux Road Central, near Tung Man Lane. The year's cases now number 48.

The cases of communicable disease reported the previous week were:—Plague 5 (4 Chinese, 1 Portuguese), with 5 deaths; cholera 25 (24 Chinese, 1 European), with 24 deaths; diphtheria 1 (Spanish); small-pox 3 (2 Chinese, one Indian), with one death.

We learn that owing to their almost entire ignorance of the English language, the

Japanese assistant plague doctors are to accompany the various senior sanitary inspectors on their rounds, so that for some time at least the devolution upon them of part of the labours presently performed by the inspectors cannot be looked for.

PRINCE TSAI CHEN IN HONGKONG.

Prince Tsai Chen, cousin of the Emperor Kwang Hsu, who is travelling to London as Special Ambassador to represent China at the Coronation on June 26th of His Majesty King Edward VII, arrived here on the 25th ult. on board the P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, which he joined at Woosung. As the *Bengal* entered the harbour and made for her anchorage it was apparent to all that she carried some important Chinese personage on board, for streamers decked her fore and aft, and at the main flew the emblem of China, the Yellow Dragon; accompanying her, too, was the Chinese revenue cruiser, *Kaipan*, which had escorted the steamer down from her starting point, Woosung. His Highness landed at Blake Pier at twenty-five minutes to one and was received by a guard of honour composed of one hundred men of the Hongkong Regiment, who presented arms as the Prince was borne past on his way to Headquarter House, where His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, the Officer Administering the Government, was to receive him. Prince Chen and his suite, which is composed entirely of Cantonese mandarins, was followed by a great concourse of Chinese, but these were kept from encroaching too near. The function at Headquarter House was a purely formal one, and after a photograph had been taken of those present at tiffin, His Highness was escorted by Lance-Sergeant Brazil to the Peak, where he expressed great admiration for the splendid view, and through the interpreter asked numerous questions as to the names of different places, the shipping in the harbour, the men-of-war anchorages, and so on. From the Peak Prince Chen went to the Chinese Club, where, after a number of the leading Chinese gentlemen of the Colony had been presented to him, he and the members of his suite sat down to tea.

On the 26th ult. Vice-Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge transferred his flag to the *Terrible*, and Prince Tsai Chen and suite, who made a thorough inspection of the vessel, evincing great interest in all that was to be seen. After partaking of some refreshment, the Royal party left the ship, and was accorded a salute of twenty-one guns. Shortly after one o'clock the *Bengal* resumed her voyage, being escorted outside the harbour by the Chinese gunboat *Fu Po* and the revenue cruiser *Kaipan*.

The following are the members of Prince Tsai Chen's suite:—Chief Secretary and Principal Adviser, Taotai Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, K.C.M.G. First Secretary, Wang Ta-hsieh, 1st Class Secretary of the Board of Rites. Second Secretary, Taotai Wong Kai-kah and Yang Lai-chao. Third Secretaries, Taotai T'ao Tachun and Tang Wei-chih. 3rd Class Secretary Board of Works. Aide de Camp, Commander Woo Ying-foo, I.C.N. Attachés, Sze-chi and Liu Shih-hsun. A st. District Magistrates.

PRINCE KOMATSU IN HONGKONG.

His Highness Prince Komatsu, the Special Representative of Japan at the Coronation of King Edward, arrived in Hongkong on the 28th ult., in the s.s. *König Albert* on his way to England, and made some formal visits on the 29th ult. Shortly after noon, he left the N.D.L. steamer for the flagship *Glory* of H.B.M. squadron, where he was received by Vice-Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge and entertained to luncheon. The journey from the *König Albert* to the British flagship was made in a gaily-decorated boat with green awnings, towed by a pinnace and escorted by torpedo-boats. The blue-jackets and marines on board the *Glory* were drawn up to receive the distinguished visitor, whose arrival on board was greeted with the Japanese National Anthem played by the ship's band. After tiffin, and having looked

over the flagship, the Prince went ashore and was conveyed in a chair to Headquarter House, where he was received by Major-General Sir W. J. Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government. An escort of Sikh police under Sergeant Garrod was in attendance. Prince Komatsu left for Europe on the 30th ult. on the *König Albert*.

Prince Komatsu, the Special Representative of Japan at the Coronation of King Edward, says the *Kobe Herald*, will land at Naples and proceed to Rome to visit the Italian Court. His Highness will then proceed to France and meet the President, arriving in London on or about 23rd June. His Highness will be a guest of the State in England from the 24th of June and, as stated, will represent His Majesty the Japanese Emperor at the Coronation of King Edward on the 26th of June. His Highness on the way home will visit Madrid, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, and will return by the Siberian railway to the East some time in August next.

THE CHINA SQUADRON.

A COALING TEST.

The new Commodore (Captain Charles G. Robinson) is to be heartily congratulated on the splendid result achieved by his recent test of the fleet coaling system. His former command, the *Terrible*, owing to her vast coal-carrying capacity and somewhat empty condition, was the ship selected to give the scheme of fleet-coaling a crucial test. The amount of coal placed on board was 2,500 tons, the net time occupied during the evolution being 9 hrs. 10 mins. Up to 2,450 tons the average quantity shipped per hour was exactly 30 tons the most amount for one single hour being 425 tons; the last 50 tons, however, reduced the mean average to 27.27 tons per hour—unprecedented records throughout. Some 22 junks were employed, the whole amount of coal being alongside before the operation commenced, and, although the time taken was remarkably brief, yet considerable time was lost by the removal of empty junks and getting the full ones in place. It is understood that the dispositions on board for coaling were different from those hitherto adopted, the general result reflecting great credit upon the indefatigable Store Officer (Mr. W. J. Gick), who personally supervised the dockyard arrangements, and also upon the ship's Commander, Fleet Engineer, and crew, without whose loyal co-operation such a splendid record could not have been accomplished.

The China Squadron thus leads the Navy in those two greatest essentials, which together constitute the efficiency of the Fleet, viz., gunnery and coaling.

KOWLOON SCHOOL OPENING.

The new school, for children of European parents, at Kowloon commenced on the 1st inst., and shortly after nine o'clock about forty scholars of all ages and sizes were seated at their desks, ready to commence their studies under new conditions and surroundings. Mr. B. James (Merton College, Oxford) is the headmaster and at present is assisted by Miss Calcott, a trained teacher, who is in charge of the younger scholars. Additional teachers will be engaged if required.

It was a very pleasing and an unique spectacle for Hongkong, to see so large a company of European children assembled together, and it is trusted their number will speedily increase, as there are many children of European parents in the Colony who might be sent, and who can be transferred to the new school on the island when it is opened. Under the tuition of so competent a master as Mr. James the children should receive not only first-class primary instruction, but later a sound secondary education. The new school rejoices in the possession of a big Union Jack, which was proudly flying over the class-room on the opening day.

We understand, however, that the school will be closed for a few days to permit of it being thoroughly furnished and equipped, and when re-opened it will be quite up-to-date in all departments.

The *Journal des Débats*, and the *Journal (Paris)* state that M. Pichon will replace M. Doumer as Governor-General of Indo-China.

HONGKONG'S FINANCES.

The following are the financial statement for 1901 and the assets and liabilities of the Colony as published in the *Gazette*:—

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1901.

LOAN ACCOUNT.

To Inscribed stock loan at 31 per cent. interest, to be paid off on the 15th April, 1943 ... £341,799.15.1
By Sinking Fund ... £20,363.12.8

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1901.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Balance in bank	...	106,896.94	
Subsidiary coins	...	1,450,000.00	
Coins in transit	...	421,000.00	
Advances	...	33,542.09	
Suspense house service	...	165.53	
Profit/money order office	...	8,000.00	
Water account	...	12,977.04	
Total Assets	...	\$2,023,581.60	
LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Crown agents' drafts in transit	...	264,000.00	
Military contribution	...	92,845.83	
Deposits not available	...	456,579.97	
Refund of taxes	...	4,000.00	
Officers' remittances	...	150.00	
Money order remittances	...	26,294.65	
Transit charges, General Post Office	...	7,600.00	
Civil pensions	...	18,600.00	
Police pensions	...	24,000.00	
Private drainage works	...	292.36	
Public works	...	83,954.82	
Miscellaneous	...	8,740.43	
Total Liabilities	...	\$ 987,058.06	
Balance *	...	\$1,652,523.54	
		\$2,023,581.60	

* Not including arrears of revenue amounting to \$61,132.00.

THE NEW TERRITORY IN 1901.

The following report by the late Colonial Secretary, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, on the New Territory for the year 1901 was submitted at the meeting on Wednesday of the Legislative Council:—

LAND COURT.

The work of adjudicating upon the claims to land has naturally been somewhat slow owing to the amount of preliminary work which devolves upon the Land Court before any actual adjudication of claims can take place. Early in the year the Court held its first sittings, and enquired into the claims at Ma Wan Island and in the islands of Cheung Chau and Peng Chau, and subsequently dealt with the intricate claims to land bordering on the harbour. The actual method of procedure adopted by the Land Court, preliminary to the investigation of claims, is set forth in Mr. Gompertz's Report. The whole of the New Territory, with the exception of the Sai Kung Peninsula and Ts'in Wan, has now been demarcated, and claims to over two-thirds of this area have already been lodged with the Land Court. In view of the difficulties incident to the inception of work of this description, the Land Court may be congratulated on the work already done. The number of lots already demarcated is 151,593; the number of claims lodged with the Land Court 69,253. Rent-rolls for Tai Po and for the districts of Mui Wo and Tung Chung in the Island of Lan Tao have been made out: and without being unduly optimistic, one may prophesy for the year 1902 a much accelerated rate of progress.

SURVEY.

Mr. Tate has returned to India, and the completion of the Cadastral Survey is under the direction of Mr. Newland. The headquarters of the survey are at present at Tai Po. In November, it was found necessary to bring 48 trained Indian Survey coolies from India, as the Chinese coolie was found unsuitable for this class of work. The Topographical Survey and the Triangulation on which the mapping has been based are now completed. During the year 1901, 11,087.35 acres and 174,677 fields were cadastrally surveyed. In 1900, the area surveyed was 35,257.77 acres and 226,588 fields. This difference is due to the fact that the Surveyors

are at present working with the Demarcators, both Survey and Land Office operations being carried on at one and the same time. The change in scales from 16-inch to 32-inch has also retarded the progress of the Survey. This change in scale was found to be essential: it was impossible to represent the small terraced fields or to survey in detail the villages on the scale of 16 inch to the mile. The districts surveyed during the year were:—The whole of the Shatankok District. Sub-Districts: Shun Wan, Tsai Hang, Lam Tsun, Hap Wo and portions of Lung Yeuk Tau of the Sheung U District; a portion of the Sub-District Kan Yeuk of the Kau Lung District, a portion of the Sub-District Cheung Muk Tau of the Tung Hoi District; the Islands of Peng Chau, Kat O and Double Island, in Mirs Bay; portions of Lan Tao Island near Tung Chung and Mui Wo.

BOTANICAL AND AFFORESTATION DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Ford, the Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, has furnished me with the following details concerning the work done by his Department in the New Territory during the past year. Tree planting has been continued round the Police Stations, and some twenty thousand miscellaneous trees have been planted along the sides of the new road between Cheung Sha Wan Gap and Sha Tin. With a view of discovering a more economical mode of raising plants than that of sowing the seed in nurseries and afterwards transplanting the seedlings, experiments have been made by sowing on the hills *in situ*. About 98,000 trees were reared in this way near the new road. With the exception of 5,000 camphor shoots, they were all pine seeds. The pines are doing well, but the camphors are almost a failure. However, further experiments are to be made this year which should prove whether it is possible to grow camphor trees on the hills so as to be a commercial success. During the past 3 months, about 4 miles of fire barriers, 15 feet wide, have been made to protect the trees along the sides of the new road and around Chinese graves. Grass turfing, to the extent of 16,000 square yards, has been done to cover loose soil near Police Stations in future it would perhaps be better for work of this sort to be undertaken by the Public Works Department in connection with the erection of new buildings.

HARBOUR DEPARTMENT.

A station in Deep Bay, on board the Police steam-launch, was opened in November, 1901. There are now four stations in the New Territory. During the year 1901, 6,763 licences, clearances, permits, etc., were issued to junks at Cheung Chau; 4,117 at Tai O; 3,411 at Tai Po and 531 at Deep Bay. These figures show an increase of 182, as compared with those of last year. The revenue collected by the Harbour Office Department from the New Territory during 1901 was \$9,222.30; in 1900, the revenue was \$8,390.75.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The work of erecting and draining permanent Police Stations and of constructing telephonic communication between various parts of the New Territory has been steadily pushed forward. The Police Station at Sai Kung, begun in 1900, was completed at a cost of \$13,650.60. The station at Sheung Shui has also been completed, and the one at Tai O in the Island of Lan Tao has been commenced. The new road to Tai Po, the total length of which when finished will be about 18 miles, has been completed for 13½ miles and good progress has been made with the remaining section. The amount spent on the new road during the year was \$74,488.86.

EDUCATION.

Little has been done as yet for the promotion of education in the New Territory, but it is hoped that before long Anglo-Chinese and vernacular schools will be started at Un Long and Sheung Shui.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Ho Nai Hop resided at Tai Po and attended 2,096 cases during the year. This shows a large increase on the number of cases attended during the previous year; no doubt, most of the inhabitants having availed themselves of Mr. Ho's services. There has been a great improvement in the health of the Europeans stationed in the New Territory. The number of cases of malarial fever shows a large decrease: the percentage of admissions to hospital of such cases dropped from 90 per cent. in 1900 to 52.5

per cent. in 1901. This is due, no doubt, to the prophylactic measures adopted, and to the destruction of the breeding places of the anopheles mosquito.

POLICE.

The Chinese authorities, at the suggestion of this Government, established a force of soldiery along the northern border of the New Territory during the latter part of the year under review. These "braves" have co-operated with our Police in preventing the incursion of bands of robbers across the borders. The close co-operation has enabled the Government to effect a reduction in the number of police stationed in the New Territory and has had a good effect in checking crime.

CRIME.

The number of cases heard was 551, involving 708 accused persons. In my report last year, I drew attention to the criminal statistics and pointed out the apparently large increase in crime which had taken place. This increase was probably due, as I then observed, to the more complete development of the Police organisation and to the growing confidence of the natives in British methods of administering justice. This year it is satisfactory to be able to report that, although there has been a slight increase in the number of serious offences, there is no increase in the number of crimes committed. There was one case of murder, for which three men stood their trial and were convicted. One of the murderers was hanged; the sentences on the other two being commuted to imprisonment for life. There were 25 gang robberies, in connection with which 21 persons were convicted and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. The special legislation passed in 1901 to protect the lives and property of passengers by launches from attack by armed robbers disguised as passengers has been effectual; no case of this kind having occurred during 1901. The figures for this year show a decrease of 35 cases and of 99 accused persons, as compared with the year 1900. Breaches of the Opium Ordinance are still responsible for the largest list of offenders, 161 cases having been tried under this enactment alone.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year 1901, exclusive of expenditure on behalf of Police services, was \$252,376.14. Of this amount, Public Works Extraordinary, including the Survey, were responsible for \$163,101.45. Expenditure on behalf of the Public Establishment amounted to \$101,884.01. It will thus be seen that the total expenditure for the year was \$354,260.15. The total expenditure for the year 1900 was \$345,654.14, the increase in expenditure for the year 1901 is, therefore, \$8,606.01. Large as the amount of money expended during the year under review may appear to be, it should be remembered that much of it has been sunk in permanent improvements, in the building and draining of Police Stations and in the construction of the new road. There are also smaller sums, such as the \$9,321.3 expended in connection with the lighthouse on Waglan Island and the \$6,029.82 spent on the hire and charter of launches, which, though charged to the New Territory account, are of considerable benefit to the trade and commerce of the Island of Hongkong. The revenue collected amounted to \$53,890.63. The moneys collected under junk licences, pawnbroker's licences and stone-quarries show but little variation with the sums collected under these heads in 1900. Licences for the sale of spirits and kerosene oil, issued for the first time during the year 1901, brought in the sum of \$3,015.98, and a slightly larger sum was derived from permits to collect stone and ballast. The most satisfactory item in the revenue return, however, is the large increase in the sum collected for Land Tax. During the year, the services of the Registrar-General were made use of to impress upon tenants the importance of paying rent without delay. The amount collected was \$28,797.65 as against \$131,000 collected in 1900. As I have pointed out in previous reports, the difficulties in connection with the settlement of claims to land make the collection of rent a slow process, but with the gradual settlement of these claims and with the completion of the survey and the rent roll a considerably augmented revenue from this source may be expected. Although it may be some time before the New Territory will be able

to pay its way, it is satisfactory to be able to report that during the year 1901 the revenue collected more than trebled the amount collected in 1900. There are also signs of advancement in other directions. A cracker factory has been erected near Un-lung and a factory for the distilling of native spirits is in course of erection at Tsun Wan.

A very large establishment for the preparation of Soy for export is in full work at Kowloon City, and, like the other enterprises I have mentioned, is entirely supported by Chinese capital. I understand further that the Land Court finds that the customary mortgages to which much of the agricultural land was formerly subject, are being redeemed on every hand by the landowners, and this I regard as significant of a general advance in the value of property, and of an appreciation of this advance by the village themselves. It is certain that, when the land settlement is further advanced and titles to land settled, progress will be more rapid. Capitalists are quite prepared to invest their capital in various enterprises, but refrain from doing so until they are able to obtain a proper title to the land they wish to purchase. It must also be remembered that the New Territory has proved a valuable acquisition in certain ways which are not generally remembered, especially by those inclined to decry the extension of the Colony of Hongkong. As regards water-supply, the water for the Kowloon Peninsula is at present obtained from the New Territory, and it is difficult to see how the present and future water requirements of the ever-increasing population of Kowloon could have been met had not the New Territory come under the reign of Great Britain. It is not too much to say that, without the New Territory, the development of Kowloon must have been arrested, whereas, through its aid, the continued progress of Kowloon is assured. It is also not altogether beyond the bounds of probability that some day it may be necessary to utilise the water from the watershed of Taimo Shan for the supply of the Island of Hongkong. I am also informed, by those competent to express an opinion, that Mirs Bay contains some of the finest harbours in the world and that it is not necessary to cross the Kowloon Hills to find an ideal area for exercising troops. I have always held the opinion that the New Territory was not "a white elephant," as I have not infrequently heard unkind critics describe it. Events have already justified the favourable estimate of its future which I formed and embodied in the report I wrote after I had visited it for the first time. It is not prudent to prophecy unless one is certain, still I venture to predict that before long the inhabitants of this Colony will wonder how even the most ardent pessimist could have held any but the most favourable views regarding the future of the New Territory. This will be my last report on the New Territory and, in bidding it farewell, I do so with great regret, mingled with pleasant reminiscences of conflicting work carried on in the midst of most charming and beautiful scenery, and lessened by the recollection that I have been and still remain a staunch believer in its future.

STAFF.

The Departments concerned in the administration of the New Territory during the year have been:—The Land Court, the Magistracy, the Police, Indian Survey—Topographical and Cadastral, the Public Works, and the Medical Department. The Land Court was constituted as follows:—President, H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Member, H. H. J. Gompertz; Registrar, J. R. Wood; Registrar, E. D. C. Wolff; Deputy Registrar, Cheung Tsoi; Land Surveyor, B. W. Gray; Demarcation Officer, S. R. Moore; Demarcation Officer, A. J. Mackie; Chief Clerk in charge of Branch Offices, Yam Chi Kin. Police and Magistracy.—Mr. E. R. Hallifax has been in charge of the Police Force with his headquarters at Tai Po; he has also carried on the duties of Police Magistrate. Indian Survey.—Mr. Tate and Mr. Newland up to July 22th, afterwards Mr. Newland in sole charge. Public Works.—Messrs. Gale and Hughes have been in charge of roads and buildings construction. Medical.—Dr. Ho Nai Hop has been Resident Medical Officer at Tai Po.

LAND COURT RESULTS.

In an appendix to the report, Mr. H. H. J.

Gompertz, the President of the Land Court, stated that the whole of the New Territory on the main land, exclusive of Sai Kung peninsula and of Tsun Wan, has been demarcated, while each owner of land has a number-ticket for every lot he claims to be his property. Over more than two thirds of this area the claims have been already got in, and the balance should be in my hands within the next three months. The disputes in the outlying districts are relatively few in number, and several months of regular sittings will probably dispose of those already in my hands. The total number of claims received over the whole Territory up to 31st December last is 69,253, the total number of lots demarcated being Eleven thousand three hundred and fifty (11,350) houses have been numbered to supplement those of the Survey Maps that have been plotted on a 16 in. scale. Rent Rolls of the Tai Po District and again of Tung Chung and Mui Wo, which comprise the greater part of the cultivation in Lan Tso, are now being made out, and fresh districts will be proceeded with as soon as, to the materials now in my hands, are added the completed lot areas now under computation by the Cadastral Survey Staff.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN FOR 1901.

The *Jiji* has an article reviewing the returns of the foreign trade of the Empire for last year, published by the Revenue Bureau in the Finance Department. Our Tokyo contemporary regards the result as satisfactory in the main. The excess of imports over exports was only 3,000,000 yen, but when the increase in the import of sugar and petroleum is deducted in anticipation of the coming into force of the revised import tariff on those articles, the exports show an excess of some 4,000,000 yen over the imports. It is very gratifying to note that the total value of exports last year was so large—the largest on record, showing an increase of 47,900,000 yen as compared with the preceding year.

To the increase of the exports, raw silk and silk goods contributed 36,800,000 yen; foods and drinks 5,800,000 yen; minerals and metals 5,000,000 yen; and cotton yarn and cotton goods 1,100,000 yen. Besides these, there are some other articles which show an advance, the net increase being 47,900,000 yen. The success of the export trade this year chiefly depends upon the state of the market in certain principal staples. In export commodities of the Empire, raw silk is ranked at the head of the list, and its export, regarded as a whole, continues to increase with powerful strides, but there is occasionally much fluctuation in silk due to changes in the fashions of dress in Europe and America. Last year's prosperity in the matter of raw silk and silk goods cannot be confidently expected to recur this year. The United States is the best customer for raw silk and silk goods, and it must be remembered that the success of the foreign trade of the Empire last year was entirely due to the silk market.

The export of foods, drink, and certain other articles is mostly to the Oriental States, chiefly to China, and the improvement of the trade with China last year increased the shipment of those articles. It may be hoped that this prosperity will continue. The value of the exports to China last year showed an increase of some 10,000,000 yen compared with those for the preceding year, but it is very doubtful whether an increase will be shown last year. The trade with China since the war has, however, continued to show improvement as follows:—

	Exports.	Imports.
1896 ...	Y13,823,843	Y21,344,521
1897 ...	21,325,065	29,265,845
1898 ...	29,193,175	30,523,860
1899 ...	40,257,034	28,389,225
1900 ...	31,871,576	29,960,740
1901 ...	42,925,578	27,256,986

It will be seen from these figures that the exports to China steadily continue to increase year after year by seven to eight million yen, though the imports fluctuate. From this it is possible to hope that the increase of exports can be maintained in the future. The trade with China considerably fell off in 1900, in consequence of the disturbance in North China, so that the increase last year in comparison with the preceding year cannot be said to be

exceptional. When compared with 1899, the year previous to the disturbance, the increase is only about two million yen. If the exports to China are destined to increase at the same rate as from 1896 to 1901, the increase of 2,000,000 yen as compared with 1899 can be regarded as rather a retrogression. It is natural that the exports to China this year should increase, if nothing to retard the trade occurs. It has been reported that the trade between Japan and China has been interfered with this year by the advance in the rate of exchange due to the fall in the price of silver, yet the exports have continued to increase every month, as will be seen from the following figures:—

	1902	1901
January ...	Y2,756,592	Y1,770,919
February ...	3,388,212	2,209,674

Thus the figures show an increase of about a million yen each month. If the rate of increase in the two months be maintained throughout, the increase may reach some 12,000,000 yen at the end of the year.

In conclusion, the *Jiji* reminds the Japanese merchants and manufacturers that it is doubtful whether the present state of the trade with China can be maintained when the indemnity is paid off, and suggests that the manufacturers should devise means to reduce the producing expenses, and be prepared to meet with the demands of the time.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 25th April.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

It was quite a pretty, if not a novel, sight to see H.M.S. *Rosario*, *Rinaldo*, *Mutine* and *Vestal* steam into the harbour on the 22nd instant. I am assured on good authority that there have never been four British men-of-war in our port at one and the same time. Their appearance therefore caused quite a stir in native circles. The men-of-war will very likely be leaving tomorrow, two of them departing for the South and the other two going North.

FOOTBALL.

An impromptu football match, which attracted large crowds of Chinese, was played by H.M.S. *Rosario* v H.M.S. *Vestal*, resulting by a goal in favour of the former team.

CLANFEIGHTS.

Clanfeights and kindred disturbances may rightly be associated with Swatow and its surrounding districts. I doubt whether in any other part of the Chinese Empire there exists so much animosity between one class or clan and another as is here the case, and it only requires the least spark to inflame the latent ill-feeling of one sect against another, with dire and regrettable results. On the night of the 2nd instant, at about 10 o'clock, there was a great disturbance close to the Presbyterian Mission compound, and, judging by the thundering noise made, one had reason to imagine that a riot had broken out. It was only the following day that I managed to elicit any information. It appears that the cargo-boat people attacked, without any previous warning, the fishermen who have their headquarters in a small bay close to the aforementioned Mission. The fishermen retaliated and in turn attacked the cargo-boat gang at their place the next day. Bamboos, stones, poles, etc., were freely used in the combat, and many with broken heads bemoaned their short-sighted policy. All the trouble occurred because a fisherman belonging to that particular guild had the audacity to put his boat in a place where the cargo-boats usually lie!

ENDOWMENT OF A COLLEGE.

A well-to-do Penang merchant, by name Tai Chan Yung, who is a native of Tai-pu, intends settling \$160,000 for the opening and support of an Anglo-Chinese college which is to be erected in his native place.

A RAILWAY SCHEME.

A certain influential native, by name Chang Pe Chu, is the promoter of the latest railway enterprise which is to connect Swatow with the prefecture of Chowchowfoo. He has issued a prospectus in Chinese, from which I make the following extracts:—"The name of the concern to be the Chao-Shan Railway Company, Ltd. with a capital of one million dollars, in \$100 shares

The head office is to be in Hongkong, where shares may be applied for and the Imperial Bank of China to act as the company's bankers. The work to be completed in four years' time. A railway from here to Chowchowfoo would mean a great boon to everybody, particularly to business people, and it is therefore trusted that Chang's enterprise will meet with success.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WROTE.

In connection with the four British men-of-war in port, I learn that the local Chinese telegraph office had occasion to send a cover on board H.M.S. Rosario, which was addressed as follows: "Mr. H.M.S. Rosario, Esquire."

PEKING.

Peking, 14th April.

COURT'S VISIT TO THE IMPERIAL TOMBS.

The Court did not get off as early as it expected on Sunday morning. Instead of at sunrise, the hour fixed, it was a quarter past seven when it passed through the T'ung-hua Men. The military body-guard was lined up on either side the roadway from the Forbidden City, and when the Imperial family came out turned in behind it. There were the immediate retinue and the chamber-keepers in front, a choice scalpawagery, but the advance or foreguard was dressed up two miles out of the city awaiting its charge. The small fry and less went bowling along in carts, cutting up the Imperial roadway in places and in others taking shortcuts in the direction of the day's destination. A few foreigners witnessed these doings, which were well worth an early morning walk from behind palings, but the

CURIOSITY HAS WORN OFF

with the crowd, the gorgeous Oriental procession is too early for the Sybarites, and being on Sunday morning the Christians were outuled. As announced in the edict, the Imperial party drank tea at the Tung-yueh-miao just outside the Tartar city wall and went on a mile or so, where they burnt incense at a large temple. At both these temples yellow chairs waited to receive them—three.

THE SHOW WAS A TREAT.

There had been a good deal of furbishing and priming since the last performance. The shabbiness apparent when they arrived in Peking was absent, carts, chairs, accoutrements and flags were all new, spick and span new, and the procession tossed, rolled and glittered in the sunlight. Of course the Dowager bores with a big anger when she gets a fair chance. Thousands of people had congregated outside the city to witness it and appropriated the spectacle with truly Chinese proprietorship and independence as though it was their own, which it was of course. Their behaviour must be very shocking to the writers of books about them. The man with the bow and arrow who shoots out the eye of the chap who dares to behold His Sacred Majesty, the Son of Heaven, must have been dead these thousands of years, and yet I saw an honest man yesterday who knew a Chinaman who said he had been shot in this way, not in the eye but somewhere in the limbs. The gentleman told a story of

TUNG-CHI'S JOURNEY TO THE EASTERN TOMBS and was a witness to his return after days of rain in fathoms of mud, when the horses having all been killed by the toil, the soldiers were impressed and pulled the Emperor's cart into the city. Numbers of horses have already been killed by the preliminary exertions, an idea of which can be gained from the fact that nearly all the carts for hire about the town have been pressed into the service of the pilgrims. Think of an ordinary cart animal, such as you hires in the streets going to the eastern tombs in a week, which according to reliable Chinese information is from two hundred to three hundred and sixty li distant! The butcher shop only a little way above my door is a crying protest to this kind of cruelty. There were troops, five ones, lined up in close order on both sides of the road for five miles out of the east gate! Every brigade had thirty or forty of those immense Chinese standards, the breeze just lively enough to fill them. A boy forced by his companions into the middle of the road between the standard-bearers opposite an inn well

FELL IN A FIT.

and was left for his mother to take away.

Some timid groups, curiosity and wonder struck, ludicrously craned their necks above walls here and there when everyone else was sloshing about nonchalant. An occasional old man at the base of some old stone monument in the field, content with a more quiet and broader view than that of the contending crowd. Perspective and thought were his requirements.

THE EMPEROR

was in full view in a large chair with large windows and looked interestedly about him. Owing to her sensitiveness on the subject of her side view the Dowager sat between blue curtains far back in her chair and was to be seen only by a direct front-window glance. A couple of thousand soldiers accompanied them and the Peking garrison on parade marched back to their barracks. It was all over by ten o'clock three miles out of the city—the bedragoned mob like a colony of ants scrambling on toward Tung-chow, leaving us to come back wrapped in thought.—*Mercury*

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of 12th ult.—

Quite a large section of Hata-Men Street in Peking is fenced off to enable a small army of stonemasons to go on with the Ket eler memorial. From the number and the huge size of the monoliths, one judges that the monument will be one of the sights of the Capital.

The Recreation Ground saw a novelty last Saturday in the resuscitation of the old English sport of Rounders. It was a "mixed" game, the ladies being allowed to use tennis-rackets, while the men were limited to the club which resembles a potato-masher more than a bat. There was more healthy, uproarious fun in it than anything else.

The exploring party that left Tientsin last Autumn under Major Manifold, I.M.S., and Captain Hunter, R.E., after traversing Honan, Shen Si, and Sze Chuan, finally emerged on the Yangtze near Chungking about three weeks ago, and well. Major Manifold is expected up here before he returns to India.

We have to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. C. D. Tenney. Mr. Tenney's mission to Berlin was in part successful. The German authorities there have come to the decision not to restore the buildings of the Tientsin University, but they have given, or are to give, compensation; and the College building will be erected on a new site. This site has now to be determined.

An attempt is being made to get Mr. John Roberts to Tientsin and a subscription list is now open in the Tientsin Club. The list yesterday showed \$200 subscribed, but \$1000 is necessary.

There has been some correspondence between the Chamber of Commerce on the one hand and the German Association and the T.P.G. on the other hand about the present condition of the Tientsin City money market. The Committee of the Chamber had a consultation with the foreign Bank Managers on Tuesday this week; and a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Emens, Hewat, Heyl and Kump, has been appointed to receive a deputation from the native bankers and to consult with them as to possible remedial measures.

At a meeting held in the Gordon Hall last Tuesday, General O'Moore Creagh, V.C., presiding, it was unanimously decided to raise a Volunteer Mounted Infantry Corps in Tientsin, consisting of Britons and Americans, to be called "Creagh's Own Scouts," so named after the gallant General who has displayed so much energy in its formation. After some elucidating remarks by Mr. Harding, it was proposed to elect a committee of three by ballot; this resulted in the following gentlemen being elected:—Mr. E. Fabris, Mr. W. Harding and Mr. C. P. Morling. This Committee was instructed to make investigations as to the most suitable way of conducting the corps, and to report to a subsequent meeting. About 30 civilians were present, amongst whom was Mr. W. W. Dickinson, whose remarks on financing the Corps were much appreciated.

The amount of building going on in Peking is incredible and must be a large factor in the scarcity of skilled labour—bricklayers, masons and carpenters—now so marked in the northern part of the Province. The whole Legation quarter is all but unrecognisable to those who knew the City

only a year ago. The most striking street improvement is in the thoroughfare which is flanked by the British, Russian, Japanese and Italian Legations. The road on both sides of the canal has been macadamised and broad side-paths or trottoirs marked off: then the canal has been made less dangerous by a neat dwarf wall running the whole length of the two roads, while at the North end, buildings, which are crosses between bastions and gates, have been put up on each side of the canal, thus preventing a possible enemy again enfolding the whole roadway from the wall of the Imperial City.

Sir Claude Macdonald's "Lest we forget" is still prominent on the wall of the Legation, but is shortly to disappear through structural alteration.

There is a widely spread feeling of distrust as to the health of the Port of Tientsin, and anxiety lest infection may reach us from Shanghai. The T.P.G., referring to this, has been in communication with the Customs and the Consular authorities as to the expediency of enforcing quarantine regulations against Shanghai steamers. The Municipal Health Officer was consulted: he at once communicated with Shanghai by telegram, and had a reply that in the week March 26th-April 2nd there was only one reported additional case of infectious disease in Shanghai, and that the death rate was strictly normal. . . . Tientsin residents need have no fears as to danger of infection from Shanghai; the diphtheria at their own door is a far greater evil and a much more reasonable cause of alarm. We may add that the health of the Port just now is exceptionally good, as far as the testimony of those best qualified to know goes. We have much less sickness than usual on the Spring.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE CORONATION CELEBRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—The public will no doubt be gratified at the elaborate programme which the appointed Committee has drawn up for the celebration of the coronation of their Majesties the King and Queen, but it seems to me that considering that the Public have now been asked to provide the money the opportunity of consulting them might have been given.

The Committee is not a public one; the majority were appointed, and the balance elected later by the other members. It is a repetition of the Diamond Jubilee arrangement, which at the time gave an amount of unnecessary dissatisfaction. Surely this might have been guarded against.

The Hon. Secretary of this committee announces that the sum of \$30,000 will be required and any surplus will be devoted to such permanent memorial as may be decided by this committee. It may be within the memory of most of the residents that on the 28th February, 1898, a statement of accounts collected from the public for the Diamond Jubilee celebration showed a balance of \$184,381.38. The public who are now asked to again loosen their purse-strings would first like to know what has been done with that sum. It was decided at the time that it should be expended (1) on a Jubilee Road to go round the island on the sea level, (2) to erect a Jubilee Hospital and Nursing Institute for Women.

A road, not the original the money was voted for, has at last been started. This road, in the form it is being proceeded with, should have been built by the Government, and the money returned to the subscribers or with their consent devoted to something better. The Women's Hospital is where?

Now, I take it that many will hesitate subscribing to any fund until the money collected for the last has been accounted for. That money was subscribed for two specific purposes; one has been trifled with and the other ignored. If those who undertook the stewardship of the fund have no time to use it as was decided, then they had better notify all the subscribers, or their heirs, executors and assigns, and arrange to return it, plus interest.

The contemplated programme seems weak

in several things. Parading the soldiers and sailors at 5 p.m. will mean that they will have to be on the ground at 3 p.m.—in midsummer, which will afford ample opportunities for sunstroke. If it is to be held it should be in the early morning or evening. The discussed levee will be inconvenient—imagine high hats, frock coats, etc., in the heat of the day. The Cathedral service is reasonable, providing there be no sermon. The fireworks on the Cricket ground will be greatly enjoyed, especially by the Ground Committee! The King's Park will be much appreciated, and it is to be trusted that H.E. the Acting Governor will be able to arrange it. He has contributed to the pleasures of the community in not a few instances during his short term of office, and we hope he will be able to fix this. Yours, etc.,

RESIDENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 29th April.

SIR,—Referring to the letter on the above subject which appeared in your valuable issue of Monday last, your correspondent "Resident" does not tell us how long he has been tarrying in this benighted colony. This he ought to have done; and, with a little cogitation, he might not have found it difficult to discover the many connecting links, in the history of the last quarter of a century, between cause and effect. "When you sow thorns you cannot expect to gather roses." It has been my lot to steadily watch the sowers at their crafty scatterings for many years and I am not at all surprised at the grim harvest, which more than probably promises such over-abundance in the near future. Plague we have had with us now for nearly a decade, and pestilence in several forms is in our midst. During the later years famine in shelter for the middle and poorer classes, and to-day, famine, in both food and water, is threatening us at our very doors! Is this any more than we deserve after our husbandry of the last three decades?

Some of the blackest of the clouds have, however, passed away, but the blackest cloud of all, one which has completely overshadowed our destinies morally, and also in a practically physical sense for the greater part of that time, is still hovering as a *tantalus* over us, and until that cloud has either passed away or burst nothing but thorns can be looked for in the future of this once beautiful Island Home—Yours, etc.,

OLD RESIDENT.

THE WATER FAMINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 28th April.

SIR,—As the water famine is likely to continue for days and weeks one can imagine what the state of the Colony will be like if the clouds only continue to roll by. At present the inhabitants of the lower levels have not a sufficient supply for potable purposes, let alone what is necessary for cleansing purposes and personal ablutions. I am even told that many have been obliged to use the same basin of water—water not from the Government mains but from polluted streams and puddles. Coolies are charging sixty cents for two kerosene tins of water! Even at such a high price all the water that is being hawked about in the streets is snatched up by the thirsty inhabitants. Perhaps this water is worse than well water.

Isn't there a remedy for this serious state of affairs? Either the Government must ship more fresh water to the Colony, or the Sanitary Board must allow all those wells, which by their natural position are free from the contamination of sewage, etc., to be re-opened. It is a fact that many of the wells which have been closed are spring-wells, the water drawn from such wells being cool, pure, and sweet. Such water has been proved suitable for potable purposes, the inhabitants having drawn their daily supplies from these wells for many years previous to the introduction of water services. If these wells are re-opened it will be a great relief to the inhabitants; and what is not potable can be used for cleansing and washing. Besides we cannot forget our bodies in this weather.—Yours, etc.,

T.

A SUNDAY NUISANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

26th April, 1902.

SIR,—Cannot the public be protected from the intolerable nuisance that exists on Sunday on the ground in front of the Hongkong Hotel on which building operations are proceeding. It is bad enough during the week to have one's business interrupted by an abominable steam pile-driver, but surely on Sunday the neighbourhood can be protected from the nuisance created by this machine and the chipping of stone and hammering of iron by the workmen of Chinese contractors. If Chinese are not allowed to work cargo on Sunday, they should be prohibited from building houses and causing a nuisance in doing so to other people.—Yours, etc.,

AFFLICTED

SIR JAMES MACKAY'S TARIFF PROPOSALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Shanghai, 26th April.

SIR,—A few of those twenty-three who voted against Mr. Little's amendment at the late meeting of the Shanghai branch of the China Association are still weeping in anticipation over the dreadful consequences that would have ensued for China had only the Chairman given his casting vote in favour of instead of against the amendment. It is unlikely that there was present at that meeting a single member who did not as sincerely as Sir James himself desire to see the curse of the *lekin* system removed, and who would not have been ready to support him in his crusade against the present method of provincial taxation—and herein lies the crux of the whole—were there any hope of the means proposed being successful. It was indeed remarkable how frequently the small word "if" came to the front and how intimately the whole scheme depended upon it. The speech of Mr. Scott, the chairman of the meeting, in proposing the resolution adopted by the Committee (with one remarkable exception), regularly bristled with "ifs"; and in a carefully wrapped up in the very body of the resolution proposed was its own strongest condemnation. The Association holds, it went on to recite, that "As the experience of the past has impelled a strong disbelief in Chinese promises and Chinese honesty of intention, it is imperative that it is a condition of the scheme becoming operative that China shall first be required to show, not merely by the removal of the *lekin* and other barriers, but by the institution of a reformed system of fiscal administration in the provinces, that she is both able and willing to carry out the agreement both in spirit and in letter." Here it was plainly acknowledged that this was the final test—that the Government should remove itself these fatal barriers; and herein was the most important point of all, which yet had been slurred over in absolute silence by the self-constituted physician of our woes. I do not propose to quarrel with the latter portion either of the resolution, that under the conditions of the entire freeing of the trade from all inland taxation whatever, a surcharge of even ten per cent. might not be excessive; this, however, is a merely academic question. What concerns us intimately is first, is there a possibility of bringing Sir James Mackay's scheme within the limits of practical politics; and second, if that be found impossible, is it desirable that an attempt should be made to initiate a dangerous experiment in a field already deeply laid with explosives of high efficiency?

The amateur photographer will doubtless recall the tempting motto adopted by certain vendors of one of the later cameras, "You press the button, we do the rest." It would, however, be a rather dangerous experiment for an unskilled passer-by to try in a hostile country known to be thoroughly mined to press the button of the first innocent-looking box he found in his road. Such an innocent-looking box Sir James Mackay has undoubtedly found lying in his path; and his unaccustomed fingers are sadly itching to press the button, without halting to enquire whether the box contains a harmless lens or a contact-fuse connecting with the charged magazine below, and arranged to, in a short moment, result in a dire explosion which

may consign, not only Sir James, but the entire empire to chaos.

There is a difference which neither Sir James Mackay nor his inspirers seem able to comprehend between reform and revolt on. China is an old country and the machinery of government has become, it may be, hopelessly corrupt; but there are certain fundamental lines along which the administration has been accustomed to work. Is it a wise thing before we have made ourselves master of these to clear away the whole substratum on which the edifice rests? And are we prepared without removing the superincumbent weight to lay a brand-new foundation, leaving the edifice in mid air? If the task before us were to found a new Empire the system of provincial administration at present existing would be the last that I, or indeed any reasonable man, would propose; but we are not called upon to found a new Empire but on the contrary are doing our best to underpin an old building already unfortunately in a tottering condition. The methods to be used are essentially different. Built up by degrees, the foundations have little homogeneity, and the defects in the foundation are repeated in the superstructure which has as little cohesive power. Of this there was abundant evidence in the recent troubles, where indeed the toppling administration only contrived to survive the shock by the support given to it by these extraneous buildings. It is yet on this rotten basis that Sir James Mackay's ill-planned and erroneously designed scheme would lay the onus of maintaining the stability of the entire edifice.

It is not too much to say that all previous attempts in this direction have proved utter failures, and that all our endeavours to strengthen the shaken edifice by increasing its dependence on Peking have ended in disaster. The very first of these showed the essential weakness of the system. Our trade with China practically commenced at Canton, and from the first we were brought in contact with the dual administration. While we paid duties to the Hoppo, an officer appointed from Peking and representing the Imperial authority, we had in the shape of what were then called "mast dues," which were supposed to go to the maintenance of the provincial administration, to pay further the provincial dues. In our desire to consolidate, we converted these "mast" into "tonnage" dues. The result, as we soon found to our cost, was that they were quietly appropriated, while the burden of keeping up the local administration, supposed to include the maintenance of the harbour and its approaches, was tacitly shelved. We probably did not lose much in this particular instance, but we established a precedent against ourselves. My readers will probably remember the once celebrated "Sherrard Osborne Fleet," we honestly having invaded the hitherto sacred precincts of Peking, and shaken the old edifice to its foundations, sought as we are doing now, to "strengthen" it, and sent out a fleet which was to bring about the regeneration of China. The fleet was to be placed under the supreme control of Peking, while the provinces were to pay the piper; but here again we reckoned without our hosts; the provinces had as little respect for and as little confidence in Peking in 1861 as they have shown they have in these modern times. They would have none of these Danai bearing gifts, and after a series of by no means dignified negotiations, Captain Osborne had to go home a sadder if not a wiser man. Then came the Treaty of Tientsin, a final achievement which was to remove once and for all the hindrances that had grown up around our trade: it was agreed in solemn fashion that at the open ports "the authority appointed to superintend the collection of duties shall be obliged on application of the Consul to declare the amount of duties leviable on produce between the place of production and the port of shipment," and conversely on goods imported and proceeding to the interior, and these were to be published for general information. Possibly this would have worked, but unfortunately it was never tried, nor was a single demand ever made to have the statement given; the stipulation was in fact from the very first under the old hallucination permitted to become a dead letter. But Peking had its eye open, and was ready with its promises and blandishments—only shut our eyes, and open

our months, and all the good things the fondest imaginings could devise would drop in like gifts from fairyland.

I need not repeat how the old heaven worked; but following the old blunder for which we had already so dearly paid we fell back on the alternative which according to the treaty was merely optional—of paying in all our money to Peking, which on its side, took very good care that the provincials who had to bear all the burden should see none of the proceeds. This new payment was according to the treaty to be computed as half the tariff duty; and this we were assured in the complacent manner habitual with Peking "would be all right."

Had we taken the ungentlemanly part of making a few enquiries, we might very easily have learnt that as before we were reckoning without our host; but times were easy, no little cloud had as yet arisen on the horizon, and the Government at home did not wish to be disturbed in its day-dreams. Add to this that Government was represented in Peking by an amiable dilettante with a soul above the ignoble dress of commerce and we can easily comprehend what followed. As a fact, no enquiry into the ability of Peking to carry out its—I will not say promises, for it was not even asked to promise—suggestions was ever made; nor was it hinted that any "guarantee" should be needed, or that any questions as to the readiness of the provinces to meet the scheme should be asked. The Inspector-General of Customs, Sir Robert Hart, naturally favoured a scheme which should place in the hands of his department the apparent manipulation of so much more money; it was not for him as a servant of the Chinese Government to go out of his way to throw obstacles in the way, so on the bare word of the Tsungli Yamen that "it was all right," an elaborate Transit Pass system was inaugurated on paper. The result may be learned from Blue-books innumerable, as well as from the records of every Chamber of Commerce wherein the position of the China Trade came under discussion.

In 1876, also with the assistance of the Inspector-General of Customs, the then acting British Minister, Sir Thomas Wade, tried his hand at the next game, the Convention of Chefoo. I need scarcely point out with what success the Minister had unwisely pitted himself against not only Sir Robert Hart, but against Li Hung-chang, himself the wildest of the Chinese statesmen of the age. Fortunately the home government came to the rescue, and the instrument remained unratified.

Supervening on this, those who have been most energetic in the defence of Sir James Mackay's scheme tell us has been the one great victory vouchsafed to British trade, and that is the Opium Convention of 1885. But whos has been the victory—certainly not the British merchant, nor yet British trade. Nominally, it is true, the professed object of the Convention was by holding out a bribe high enough to the provincial tax-collectors in China to induce them to charge no more; actually the Convention was made at the dictation of the Anti-Opium League to render impossible the Indian opium trade. Curiously enough for neither party was it an unqualified success; the Chinese authorities, whose ideas of political economy were on a par with those recently put forth by Sir James Mackay, calculated that if a duty of thirty taels per chest would bring them in some two millions of taels per annum, a charge of a hundred and ten would bring in seven and a third millions, while the anti-opiumists calculated that the surcharge of twenty-five per cent. would extinguish the trade altogether. To the provincial governments it however afforded a means of increasing their annual revenues, which they eagerly seized. A writer who in 1867 had access to all the available sources of information, spoke of it in those days as, "a system of nearly as elaborate a compensation as the lunar theory itself, gravitation towards the officials being the active force." Before the system was put in action the provincials had found an insurmountable difficulty owing to the competition of Indian opium in raising a revenue from native opium; the convention gave them the opportunity, and the surcharge of eighty taels per chest afforded a wide margin, so that they found very soon a new mine of wealth exceeding all their previous hopes; plainly then they had no temptation to kill their goose which

was laying them these golden eggs. Indeed, this was admitted by the native officials, and I may quote the words of Wu Chen, a censor in the Chekiang district, written so long ago as 1871. Speaking of the difficulty of obtaining statistics, he remarks:—"It will be seen therefore that every class has more or less an interest in concealment. The official because he has got hold of a profitable milch cow, who, treated without too great rudeness, will continue to supply his treasury; the agriculturist who has nothing to gain by bustling about and exposing himself to trouble and examination, the trader whose only hope of profitable trade is to make it as clandestine as possible, and finally, the great Opium Guild and its ramifications, which by private treaties and illegal combinations has been gradually forcing into its own hands the trade in imported opium." It has thus been the self-evident interest of the provincial administrations to maintain in as good health as possible their own "profitable milch-cow" and this is the true explanation of Mr. Bland's solitary instance of what he would fain make us believe was good faith. The results on British trade are that this particular branch has shrunk to some two-thirds of its former amount, and is rapidly decreasing; while from being the chief element in ruling our exchanges, it has practically shrunk out of observation.

So much for the success of the opium experiment. Into the moral question and the relation of the opium with the other importing trades I do not propose to enter. Suffice it to say in the present connection that the experiment has been a fair success because it was the interest of every one to make it so; and its chief success has been its extinction of the opium import as an important constituent of British trade with China. We may indeed appropriately exclaim with the general who had gained such another Pyrrhic success, "One more such victory—and I am undone!"

But more extraordinary than the invariable failure of this system of propping the Empire by increasing its dependence on the rotten foundation of Peking, is the persistency with which the blunder has been passed on from one generation of dupes to another, and the salvos with which every additional plunge into the slough of despond has been greeted by the interested bystanders. Sir Henry Pottinger, Lord Elgin, and now our latest champion, have one and all sunk into the abyss, waving the much besmirched flag of victory above their heads. It is magnificent, sneeringly remarked a French general at one of the bravest charges of our British cavalry, but it is not war; and however, we may admire the personal devotion of those who have staked the issues of their country on a quixotic plunge, and finding it unsuccessful, have gone down still holding the flag erect, we cannot concede the same honours to their judgment as we should gladly yield to their valour.

I need hardly refer to the Burmese Convention, when we permitted our subjects in Burma to send year by year tribute missions to Peking; nor do more than allude to the ignominious position we placed ourselves in by a similar agreement with Peking with regard to our Tibetan relations, where the border station of Yatun still remains as a visible token of our ineptitude; except to point them out as instances of our strange incapacity to accept the logic of facts I may, however, recall the incident of Captain Lang. In 1891, in response to the urgent requests of Peking, it may be remembered that the British Government gave permission to Captain Lang to enter the service of China as Admiral, on the understanding that he was to have definite command. At first affairs seemed likely to go on favourably; and the more sanguine looked at last for some sign of the reform, which was always coming but never came. Captain Lang was less exacting than his predecessor Sherrard Osborne, but even so the same elements were at work. The Dowager Tsz'hi was about to celebrate her "Birthday," a day pregnant with woe to China; to satisfy her fancy money had to be got, however collected did not matter; and as the readiest way to obtain money in China is by stealing, and the easiest place to steal is in the war departments, expenses were cut down, though full charges were made—the misappropriations being divided between the Dowager and her satellites. As a British Officer, Admiral Lang could not be

persuaded to shut his eyes, but the representative of the British Government at Peking declined to be drawn into what they pretended to be Captain Lang's own affair; petty insults were passed on the Admiral, each one perhaps insignificant in itself, but the accumulation of which rendered further tenure of the office by a gentleman with any self-respect impossible. It was the old story, tickled by the attentions of the Dowager the British representative had listened to the glib-tongued promises of reform told by the Tsungli Yamen. Everything would be right "this time," and the fond tale was endorsed as usual by the Inspector General. It is hardly necessary to repeat the result: it is stereotyped as failure.

Need I go through the dreary episode of Li Hung-chang's dismissal in disgrace from the Emperor's Palace on an Autumn morning in 1898. "Now at last we're finished with him," said hopefully the British Minister; but had he? Let the *coup d'état* of the 23rd September tell for itself. But the words of warning given fell on unsympathetic ears. Lo Feng-lin and the representative of the Inspector-General in London came to the front and made the usual brazen promises, and the Premier fell into the old slough. I need not repeat the tale of 1900, already stale. Apparently the Inspector-General had this time been caught in his own trap, and had to make an ignominious dash for his life to the British Legation. But hope dies hard, and it was not till Dante had got to the very gates of Inferno that he realised the truth of the notice which stared him in the face "All hope abandon, ye who enter here."

The story is not a pleasant one, yet it must be told; is it necessary to wait till the goal is past and there is no returning to learn once and for ever the lesson? Is it only of the Bourbons that the fatal judgment is true? "They learned nothing, and they forgot nothing." To the practical question of the safest method of initiating a reform I may return later.—Yours, etc.

THOS. W. KINGSMILL.

THE WAYS OF THE WASHERMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Hongkong, 1st May.

SIR, In view of the statement made by Dr. Clark in his report on the health of the Colony, to the effect that respiratory diseases are answerable for 1,287, or 19.3 per cent. of the total Chinese deaths, and that 695 or 54 per cent. of the total deaths are due to phthisis alone, is it not time the law stepped in to prevent the insanitary and repulsive method in vogue amongst the Chinese washermen of damping articles of clothing preparatory to ironing by spraying from the mouth? I have been told by those who have lived there that the authorities put a stop to this disgusting practice some years ago in Singapore. In Shanghai every laundry is supervised; also the same supervision is employed in Japan. Why then should Hongkong be subjected to this benighted and heathenish practice? Why, simply because it is "old custom," should the dirty insanitary habits of the Chinese be pandered to? Imagine one's handkerchiefs and serviettes damped in this manner and arriving from the wash with stains of curry, etc., upon them! It is useless to appeal to a Chinese washerman on this subject even when shown that folding and rolling the clothes tightly when slightly damp, as is the case in all laundries in England, would be an immense saving of labour to him, as then they would be in a fit state for ironing. I know this to be a fact as I tried it with my own washerman whom I keep on the premises, offering him extra wages if he would adopt my plan. The reply was "no can, b'long old custom: s'pose you no likee, more better you catchee nother washerman chop-chop," and I had to climb down and allow him to proceed as before, knowing that if I dismissed him his successor would do the same thing. It is plainly evident then that force must be employed, that the laundries here must be licensed and supervised as in other places, and the sooner the better for all of us. Cannot Professor Simpson help us in this matter?—Yours, etc.

HOUSEWIFE.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LD.

The sixth annual general meeting of shareholders was held on the 25th ult. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and the others present were Messrs. C. Ewens, J. A. Jupp, A. H. Mansell, W. H. Potts, etc.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The report and statement of accounts having been with you for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the usual custom and take them as read. It is with much regret that your Consulting Committee and General Managers have to come before you with such disappointing results. As your Chairman told you at the last meeting, about this time last year, everything depended on what was found at the 400 ft. and 500 ft. levels, and unfortunately, as you already know, the developments at these deep levels were most unsatisfactory, the lode being split up and of no value. At the same time, the stopes in the upper levels became suddenly poor, and funds being almost exhausted there was nothing for it but to shut down the mine, which was done about the end of June. Mr. Roberts then offered to take the mine on tribute on certain conditions, and we called a private meeting of shareholders for the 24th July to discuss the situation and learn your wishes as to the offer made by Mr. Roberts, but not a single shareholder, outside your Consulting Committee and General Managers, put in an appearance, so we decided to accept Mr. Roberts's offer as the only possible course open to us. The tributors worked the mine for about four months with a loss to themselves of nearly £1,000, when they gave notice in December to determine the agreement, but offered to make a fresh contract on easier terms to themselves. As there was nothing else to be done, except immediate liquidation, the arrangement was made, and the mine is now being worked under this second tribute agreement, but, so far, the results have been very unsatisfactory, and we anticipate Mr. Roberts will very shortly give up this tribute also. We only made this last tribute arrangement to enable the Company to keep the mine running and fulfil the labour conditions in the hope of a favourable opportunity arising for disposing of the property and plant, as we do not feel justified, in the light of our past experience, in asking you to subscribe any further capital, but think that the only thing to be done is to wind up and endeavour to save as much as possible. It is very disappointing after five years to find ourselves in this position but we have had a good run for our money, and were the stone a little less hard and a little bit richer we should, I am confident, have made a big success of the Company. As it is, we have just missed being successful. We have taken out of The Eureka Mine during the last five years \$450,000.00 worth of gold, but unfortunately in has cost us more than that to get it. This is no new experience; it has happened to hundreds of other Companies and will happen to thousands more and all we can do is to make the best of it. I may mention that neither Mr. Roberts nor your General Managers have drawn any fees since June last, and your Consulting Committee have drawn no fees at all. An extraordinary general meeting will probably be called shortly to pass the necessary resolutions for winding up the Company. Meanwhile, if favourable opportunities occur, we shall proceed with the work of realising the Company's assets. Before moving the adoption of the report, I will read you a telegram we received from Mr. Roberts on Monday last. It is as follows:—"Is there any possibility of £1,000 loan on debentures. After a close investigation, I am of opinion that it is desirable to go on prospecting in a north direction. Will take the management, superintending, everything at a salary of £100 and commission of 10 per cent. on actual realised profits. I strongly recommend." Since receiving this telegram, we have had a letter from Mr. Roberts, dated 2nd April, in which he makes no mention of any improvement having taken place, and in fact informs us that on the next fortnight's developments would depend whether he should continue his tribute or not. Your General Managers and your Consulting Committee are of opinion that it would not be advisable to raise £1,000 by debentures, as the amount would be too small in our opinion to give us

reasonable prospects of achieving anything. I shall, however, be pleased to hear any remarks from any shareholder on this subject.

There were no remarks, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts. Mr. MANSELL seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. JUPP proposed that Mr. W. H. Potts be elected auditor for the ensuing year. Mr. EWENS seconded. Carried.

This was all the business.

QUEEN MINES, LD.

The third ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, on the 25th ult. Mr. Hart Buck occupied the chair, and others present were Messrs. C. Ewens, J. A. Jupp, A. P. Nobbs, W. D. Sutton, A. H. Mansell, W. Hutton Potts, Wong Mau Lam, and J. D. Cottel (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, follow the usual custom and take them as read. No work having been done at the mine for the last twelve months the accounts, as you will see, present an almost identical appearance with those issued last year, and I may remark that no fees have been drawn by the general managers. We told you at the last general meeting that the only thing to do was to await the result of our neighbours, the Olivers Company's, operations, as their success would not only have enhanced the value of our ground but the 2,000 Olivers "A" shares held by this Company, as well as the crushing plant belonging to us, would naturally be of much greater value. Unfortunately the Olivers operations have turned out most disappointing, and as we have no further hope from this source the only thing to be done is to go into liquidation and realise what we can for our plant and property. We anticipate, therefore, that we shall shortly call an extraordinary general meeting to pass the necessary resolutions for winding up. If any shareholder would like any further information I shall be pleased to give it.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MANSELL, the report and accounts as presented were adopted and passed.

The only other business before the meeting was the election of an auditor, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. EWENS, Mr. W. Hutton Potts was reappointed to the office.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 26th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

HOWARD AND STEPHENS v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Plaintiffs asked leave to appeal to His Majesty in Privy Council from a decision of the Full Court on 24th March, refusing to grant plaintiffs special leave to appeal to the Full Court from a judgement of Sir John Carrington delivered on 1st December, 1900. Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, appeared in person, and not in his capacity as a solicitor. The Attorney-General was not present.

After hearing arguments adduced by Mr. Stephens,

The Chief Justice said—This is a petition of Mr. Thomas Howard and Mr. Matthew John Denman Stephens, the plaintiffs in an action brought against the Attorney-General of Hongkong, asking that they may have leave to appeal to His Majesty the King in Privy Council, from a decision, which they call in their petition "a judgement," of the Full Court of this Colony, delivered on the 24th March, 1902, the effect of which was to refuse to grant to the plaintiffs special leave to appeal to the Full

Court from a judgement of Sir John W. Carrington, the then Chief Justice of Hongkong, delivered on the 1st December, 1900. The decision of the 24th March, 1902, discharged a Rule Nisi which had been obtained by the plaintiffs on 13th March, 1902, calling upon the Attorney-General to show cause why they should not have such special leave to appeal, and it accordingly refused to grant such leave. It is from this refusal that the plaintiffs now desire to appeal to His Majesty in Council. It will conduce to clearness if some few facts and dates relating to this matter are set forth. On 22nd November, 1898, Major-General Black, C.B., the Officer then Administering the Government of this Colony, awarded a sum of \$15,000, under Section 7, sub sec. VI, of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, by way of compensation for any injury sustained by the plaintiffs, Howard and Stephens, by the reclamation works carried out under the authority of that Ordinance. The plaintiffs, not being satisfied with that award, brought a petition against the Attorney-General of the Colony under the provisions of Section 83 of the Hongkong Code of Civil Procedure, 1873, at that time in force. (Ordinance No. 13 of 1873). Section 83 provided that:—"All claims against the Government of the Colony of the same nature as claims within the provisions of 'The Petitions of Right Act, 1860,' may, with the consent of the Governor, be preferred in the Supreme Court in a suit instituted by the claimant as plaintiff against the Attorney-General as defendant." That petition was filed on 21st December, 1899, and claimed to have the award in question 'wholly set aside and declared by the Court to be wholly null and void and of no effect.' It is not necessary for the Court, on this occasion, to give any opinion on the question whether proceedings of this kind come within the purview of the Petition of Right Act, 1860. The answer to the petition, besides raising various issues of fact, raised one of law, which was ordered to be tried before the issues of fact. The issue of law, as settled by the Court, was as follows:—"Assuming all the facts stated in the petition to be true, and, having regard to the provisions of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, has the Court jurisdiction to enquire into the proceedings connected with the award referred to in the petition, and to set aside the said award and declare it null and void?" On 1st December, 1900, the then Chief Justice, Sir John Carrington, delivered a written, considered, judgement in favour of the defendant, holding that the Court had not such jurisdiction, owing to the wording of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance. Instead of promptly appealing from that judgement to the Full Court, if they were dissatisfied with it, the plaintiffs presented a petition of right to His Majesty, the King, and they allege that they did so under the advice of their counsel. They state, in an affidavit, that they forwarded this petition to their London agents on 14th September, 1901, for presentation to His Majesty in Council. This proceeding was held to be contrary to established precedent. On the 20th January, 1902, the plaintiffs found that the course they had adopted was irregular and out of order. They then, instead of immediately asking for special leave to appeal from the judgement of Sir John Carrington to the Full Court, under Section 606 of the new Code of Civil Procedure, 1901 (which took effect from 1st July, 1901, and limited the ordinary right of appeal to six months) commenced writing to the Colonial Secretary with a view, as they say in an affidavit, to a settlement of the matters in question. The Colonial Secretary, as appears in the letters annexed to the affidavit of the Crown Solicitor, dated 22nd March, 1902, wrote to the plaintiffs on the 31st January, 1902, explaining the position of the Government and pointing out that His Excellency the Officer now Administering the Government had no power to alter the amount of General Black's award and adding that His Excellency saw no necessity for continuing the correspondence with regard to the claim which had been going on for many years. The result of the correspondence not proving satisfactory to the plaintiffs they obtained on 13th March, 1902, the Rule Nisi (which has been mentioned) calling upon the Attorney-General to show cause why they should not have leave to

appeal (the words of the Code are "special leave") from the judgment of Sir John Carrington, of 1st December, 1900. The notice of motion was filed 27th February, 1902. It may here be observed that the present Code of Civil Procedure in Hongkong is Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, the former Code of 1873 having been repealed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1901. The Code of 1901 was passed on 12th March, 1901, and came into operation on 1st July, 1901 (see Section 711). By Section 710 it was provided that it was to apply so far as might be practicable to all proceedings taken after it came into operation in all causes and matters then pending. It may be added that Section 478 (relating to the mode of preferring claims against the Government of the Colony) is similar to Section 83 of the former Code of 1873 previously referred to. The question the Court has now to decide is whether the plaintiffs should have leave to appeal to the King in Privy Council from the refusal of the Full Court to grant special leave to appeal. No doubt, the courts have held that, where special leave to appeal has been refused, the Court of Appeal has no jurisdiction to hear an appeal from such refusal. It was so decided by the Court of Appeal in *Kay v. Briggs*, in 1889, Vol. 22, Queen's Bench Division, p. 343. Similar decisions are *Lane and Another v. Esdaile* and *Another*, 1891, Appeal Cases, p. 210, when the House of Lords declined to entertain such an appeal, and in the matter of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, *ex parte Stevenson* and others, where the Court of Appeal upheld a decision of the Divisional Court to the like effect. In the ordinary course of things, therefore, a Court of Appeal will not entertain an application to appeal from a decision refusing special leave to appeal. The reasons for this are fully set out in the opinions of Lord Halsbury, the present Lord Chancellor, and of the late Lord Herschell, in *Lane v. Esdaile* in the House of Lords. It must be borne in mind that Section 606 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1901, is taken (as appears by the marginal note) from Order 58, rule 15, of the English Orders and Rules, although the period of 6 months is fixed in all cases as the limit of the ordinary right to appeal to the Full Court from any decision of the Court, instead of the times mentioned in the English Order and Rule. Lord Herschell, in the opinion I have mentioned, says:—"It cannot be doubted that the object of the 15th rule of the 58th Order was to make the judgements, after the lapse of a year, practically final. (Since this opinion was delivered the period has been reduced to 3 months.) "It is clear that some time must be fixed at which the right of appeal should cease, otherwise parties would never know what their rights were and there would be no possibility of people being safe in dealing with the fruits of a judgement, because the judgment might be still subject to appeal. But then it was thought that there might be special circumstances in which the Court of Appeal might relax that rule and consider that, notwithstanding it, an appeal should be permitted. I think that the matter was entrusted, and intended to be entrusted, to their discretion; and that the exercise of a discretion of that sort entrusted to them is not, within the true meaning of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, an order or judgment from which there can be an appeal." If, therefore, the present application had been an appeal to the House of Lords from the refusal of the English Court of Appeal to grant special leave to appeal, it would appear that the House would not entertain such an appeal. This, however, is an application for leave to appeal to the King in Privy Council from the refusal of the Full Court of Hongkong to grant special leave to appeal to the Full Court from a judgement delivered more than 15 months previously. Appeals to the King in Privy Council from the Supreme Court of Hongkong may be brought, if certain conditions precedent are complied with, against "Any final judgement, decree or sentence, or against any rule or order made in any such civil suit or action, and having the effect of a final or definite sentence," subject to the rules and limitations set out in the Regulations and Instructions to the Governor. I presume the refusal to grant leave must be taken to be "an order," and, personally, I should rather leave it to the Privy Council to determine whether

it is "an order" of the kind to be held appealable. As regards the security to be given by the appellants for the prosecution of the appeal, and for the payment of costs, the sum should be £300 sterling, and the security should be by way of bond with one or more sufficient sureties, or by way of mortgage upon some sufficient immoveable property, situate in Hongkong, to the satisfaction of the Registrar. If such security be given and completed within three months from the date of the petition for leave to appeal, i.e., within three months from 1st April, 1902, the Court will, the other conditions precedent having been already complied with, be prepared to make an order allowing the appeal to be prosecuted. The Court has been informed by the Attorney-General that he has no desire to oppose this application.

The Acting Puisne Judge—I agree. I think that if we were to act upon the case of *Lane v. Esdaile* and the other cases referred to and refused leave to appeal we should be adding to the Rules and Limitations subject to which appeals should be allowed. We must leave it to the Privy Council to decide whether an appeal to their Lordships from the decision of the Full Court here is competent.

Monday, 28th April.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN, K.C. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

YAU NG HOP v. "PHEA CHOM KLAO."

This was an action for damages by collision brought by the owner of the fishing junk *Ng Hop* against the ship *Phra Chom Kiao*. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson of Messrs Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. E. H. Sharp, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors), for the defendants.

The nautical assessor was Lieut. F. W. H. James, R.N., H.M.S. *Tamar*, King's Harbour Master.

The plaintiffs in their preliminary answers stated that the collision occurred about 8 p.m. on the 4th December in the open sea to the southward of the Good Hope Cape. The breeze was easterly and fresh, and it was a clear, bright, moonlight night with considerable sea. It was nearly low water and the current was slight. The course being steered by the junk when the other ship was first sighted was due N., and the speed about two miles an hour. She saw the steamer's white light almost straight ahead of her, slightly on her starboard side. Some little time afterwards she saw the red light of the steamer. There was an oil lamp exhibited on the mast of the junk. The distance and bearing of the other ship when first seen were four or five miles off and about N. On the steamer being seen to be heading straight for the junk, a flare was shown, the look-out man blew a horn, and all hands on deck shouted. The *Ng Hop* held her course until the steamer was right on her, when her helm was put down, but she had only begun to turn when the collision occurred. The bow of the *Phra Chom Kiao* struck the junk on the port side near the stem. The fault attributed to the other ship by the junk was that she did not keep out of the way of the *Ng Hop* and did not keep a proper look-out, that the steamer was recklessly navigated at an excessive speed, and not promptly stopped when there was risk of collision. The defendants stated in their answers that the collision took place in Lat. 23.05 N. and Long. 116.47 E. The steamer was showing the regulation lights and was steering SSW, by compass at a speed of about 10 knots. The junk was first seen at a distance of about 1½ miles; no lights were seen on her at any time. As soon as the course of the junk could be made out, the helm of the *Phra Chom Kiao* was starboarded, bringing the junk about half-a-point on the steamship's starboard bow. When the steamer was within less than quarter of a mile, the junk suddenly altered her course, attempting to cross the steamship's bows from starboard to port. As soon as those on the steamer observed the junk altering her course, the engines were put full speed astern, and the helm starboarded. The

stem of the steamship struck the junk on the port quarter. The fault attributed to the junk was that she did not keep on her course but improperly altered her course across the steamer's bows to port; if the junk had kept her course no collision would have occurred.

Mr. M. W. Slade in opening the case stated that on the day preceding the collision the *Ng Hop* had been fishing in consort with another junk belonging to the same owner, and some time in the late afternoon or evening had transferred the whole of her catch of fish to her consort, which had set sail at her best speed for the port where the junks discharged their fish and from which it was taken by launch to Swatow. The *Ng Hop* was proceeding under easy sail to the same place, by name Tataupo. The people on the junk first saw the white light of the steamer slightly on her starboard bow and shortly afterwards they saw the red light also. The *Ng Hop* was kept on her course until about 300 yards distant from the steamer, when they saw her green light. As soon as they saw both lights the captain gave orders for a flare to be shown and a horn to be sounded. This was done. The steamer came right down on to them without altering her course and at the last moment in an endeavour to avoid the steamer, the junk luffed up sharply, but was in the act of turning when the steamer came upon her and struck her on the port side near her stem. Lines were thrown to the people on board the junk and all five were saved. The junk sank and the steamer proceeded on her way, carrying the crew to Bangkok and afterwards bringing them back to Hongkong, where they were put on board the *Haitan* and sent to Swatow, their passage being paid. On reaching Swatow they reported to their owner, who sent them down to Hongkong with the object of commencing this case. One thing was clearly apparent, and that was that as the steamship people were able to make out this junk at a distance of 1½ miles, which was about as far as one of these small oil lamps usually carried by junks can be seen, the question of lights was of comparatively small importance. The steamer was steering a course which brought her into very close proximity to this junk, when she might have taken a course that would have rendered a collision impossible.

Evidence was afterwards given, and the case was adjourned.

Tuesday, 29th April.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN, (CHIEF JUSTICE).

YAU NG HOP v. "PHEA CHOM KLAO."

Mr. E. H. Sharp, in opening the case for the defence, said that there was little in common between the two accounts as to how the collision occurred. The defendants' account was that the *Phra* left Swatow for Bangkok at 4.30 p.m. on the day in question, and at 5.55 p.m. rounded the Good Hope Cape, from where she took a S.S.W. course. She kept that course for about 9 miles, travelling at the rate of 10 knots. About 6.35 two junks were sighted by the *Phra*. They were at that time, so far as the chief officer, who was in command, could judge, 1½ miles off, and 2 or 3 points on his port bow. They were carrying, or at any rate showing, no light up to the moment of collision. The other junk, the one with which they did not collide, was about 150 yards ahead of its consort. As soon as the chief officer saw these two junks he used his glasses and for some little time could not distinguish their course, but presently he made out that they were as nearly as he could see on a course at right angles to his own, N.W. by W. That was what it turned out to be. As soon as he made out their course he starboarded his helm just a little and came round on a steady swing to port until he got the hindmost of the two junks—the one with which they collided ultimately—just on his starboard bow, with the view of passing astern of both junks, recognising his obligation to keep out of their way and not to cross their bows. From the time that the *Phra* got the junks clear on her starboard bow she went straight ahead and of course at that time the steamer and the junks were starboard to

starboard and there was no danger. This continued until the *Ng Hop* was 300 yards or so away from the *Phra* and about 3 points on her starboard bow. When the *Phra* first got the junks clear on her starboard bow she was about half a mile away from them. If the *Ng Hop* had kept her course the *Phra* would, as the evidence she would adduce would show, have passed about 400 yards astern of her. But at that point the junk made her first and most serious error. She suddenly luffed up into the wind and presently afterwards went right back nearly on her former course, running away on a S.E. course, which of course would be across the *Phra's* bow. The *Phra* immediately reversed her engines full speed and put her helm hard to starboard. He thought the evidence would satisfy his Lordship that if the junk had kept even her new S.E. course, the *Phra* would have stopped in time or would have cleared her. But the junk did not keep that course. So soon as she gathered way she came up by a slight curve to port, resulting in a collision with the *Phra* about two minutes or so later. This was the second error the junk committed; the substantial error, however, upon which the defence stood was the junk's taking a course across the *Phra's* bows.

Evidence was afterwards given by Chief Officer J. Jackson, who was in command of the *Phra Chom Klao* at the time of the collision.

Mr. Sharp having made his concluding address to the Court,

An adjournment was ordered until to-day at 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, 30th April.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEGH GOODMAN, K.C. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

YAU NG HOP v. "PHRA CHOM KLAO."

After Mr. Slade had addressed the Court, His Lordship in delivering judgment said that, as his nautical assessor took exactly the same view of this case as he took himself, he would not delay the decision by taking time to prepare a written judgment. He believed that Mr. Jackson, the first officer of the *Phra Chom Klao*, had given such evidence as he honestly believed to be true; but, at the same time, it seemed clear to the Court that when that officer made out the junk which had, at the time, only one sail up, he mistook the course she was steering. He thought her course was nearly at right angles to that of the steamer, and when he very gradually starboarded his helm till he got her half a point on his starboard bow he reckoned that by the time he got to her then position, the junk's course would have taken her some considerable distance from the steamer. It was night and it is not always easy in such case to make out the exact direction of a junk's course. The Court was of opinion that that course was much nearer to North, North-West, than a course at right angles to the South, South-West course of the steamer. The result was that the junk could, at the best, have been passed more closely than was wise in the circumstances. There was nothing to prevent an allowance of more than half a point. It was not as if there were other junks astern of this, and there was no necessity to cut matters so fine when the junk's course was not likely to be an approximately straight line steered by compass. The junk was sailing very leisurely, steered by the stars, the master of the junk said, and they did not want to reach Tatkaupo till daylight. It would have been much better when the *Phra* altered her course, so as to avoid risk of collision, if she had done so less gradually and so as to let the junk people see what she was really doing. The Court thought that the steamer was to blame, but it also thought the junk contributed to the collision by negligence, that is, by improperly luffing up and going about, when the proper thing would have been to have continued on her course. If this wrong step had been occasioned by the junk having been suddenly placed in such a difficult position that the master, having only such skill as a junk master of ordinary nerve and intelligence ought to possess, might not unreasonably have taken it, every allowance would have been made to him. But, in this instance, the master knew so little about steamer

lights that he said he thought a steamer had a red light on her starboard side. It was, therefore, quite probable that his luffing and going about were the result of his believing the green light he saw was on the steamer's port bow. In any case, it was a wrong step to take. In the result, both the steamer and junk must be held to blame; the junk would recover half damages, and each party must bear his own costs. The usual enquiry should be held.

The Court adjourned.

CRICKET.

H.M.S. "ALACRITY" v. MR. MAKOVEYEFF'S XI.
Some high scoring was witnessed in this match, which was played on the Naval Ground, Happy Valley, last Tuesday afternoon. Makoveyeff's XI won a great game by 6 wickets and 8 runs. In Preedy's innings were 3 6's 3 5's 14 4's 2 3's and 12 2's, all of which were run out with the exception of one 6 and two 4's. A high rate of scoring was kept up, as in 3½ hours 402 runs were scored.

H.M.S. "ALACRITY."	
Scammel, c and b Woods	37
Plumbe, b Morrison	17
Saunders, c Makoveyeff, b Morrison	4
Jackman, b Morrison	2
Harwin, b Morrison	9
Ellis, c Woods, b Morrison	2
Montague, b Woods	16
Brodyack, not out	69
Sampson, b Morrison	4
Vercoe, c Preedy, b Morrison	29
Renton, did not bat	
Extras	8

Total (for 9 wickets)..... 197

MR. MAKOVEYEFF'S XI.	
Preedy, not out	136
Morrison, c Brodyack, b Scammel	33
Hill, b Scammel	6
Woods, b Brodyack	11
Smith, not out	5
Makoveyeff, c	
Cheshire, } did not bat	
Shirley, }	
Willis, }	
Twomey, }	
Extras	14

Total (for 3 wickets)..... 205

RIFLE SHOOTING MATCH.

The following is the result of a very enjoyable match fired at Kowloon Rifle Range on the 26th ult. between the Range Staff and the Royal Engineers, the Range Staff winning by 36 points:—

RANGE STAFF.	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Total
C. P. O. E. Denner	33	31	32	96
Sgt.-Instr. F. Davies	31	32	30	93
P. O. 1 S. J. Chase	31	31	30	92
Sgt.-Instr. F. S. Crass	32	29	27	88
Lieut. H. Stansbury	31	25	30	86
Sgt.-Instr. W. Griffiths	25	29	31	85
P. O. 1 J. Rippen	31	27	27	85
Pte. E. Evans	31	29	21	81

Totals ... 245 233 228 706

Averages ... 30.62 29.12 28.5 88.25

ROYAL ENGINEERS.				
Q. M. S. West	31	34	27	92
Cpl. Lowe	33	29	28	90
Cpl. McEwan	28	32	28	88
Cpl. Eddy	30	33	23	86
Spr. Palmer	30	29	25	84
Spr. Edwards	30	29	20	79
Cpl. Beer	31	28	19	78
Spr. Bond	27	26	20	73

Totals ... 240 240 190 670

Averages ... 30 30 23.75 83.75

LAWN-TENNIS.

The following finals have been decided this week:—Professional Pairs, Smith and Atkinson beat Grist and Pontifex; "A" Class doubles, Smith and Atkinson beat Gale and D. Wood; "A" Class singles, Humphreys beat Beresford-Ash; "B" Class singles, Chater beat Worcestor; Championship, Humphreys beat Pontifex.

R.W.F. ASSAULT-AT-ARMS.

The Assault-at-arms given by the R.W.F. on the New Parade Ground on the 26th ult. drew a big crowd. When the Fusiliers undertake to provide amusement, the public generally always look for a good thing. Saturday's performance was no exception to the rule. All the items on the programme were gone through in the Fusiliers' best style, and the smartness with which the men went through their various exercises was highly creditable to their instructors. The Indian Club swinging was perhaps one of the best items on the programme, although not quite up to the standard of their performances some few weeks past at the City Hall. Enclosures were reserved for the officers, sergeants, and for the public. H.E. Major-General Sir William Gascoigne and Lady Gascoigne were present, and many other of the leading residents in the Colony. The thanks of the community are due to the R.W.F. for providing an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment.

The band of the Royal Welsh played selections during the afternoon, Bandmaster Moir ably wielding the baton.

The following were the results:—

BAYONET FIGHTING.—Company teams of 4 men under Instructor:—

"E" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Palmer ... 1

"H" Co.'s Team under Sgt. Baston ... 2

BAYONET EXERCISE.—Company teams of 20 men under Instructor:—

"E" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Palmer ... 1

"A" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Keating ... 2

FREE GYMNASTICS.—Company teams of 10 men under Instructor:—

"H" Co.'s Team under Sgt. Guyatt ... 1

"E" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Palmer ... 2

TUG-OF-WAR.—Company teams of 10 men:—

"A" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Keating ... 1

"H" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Murphy ... 2

PHYSICAL DRILL.—Company teams of 20 men under Instructor:—

"C" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Glazebrook ... 1

"A" Co.'s Team under Cr.-Sgt. Keating ... 2

HONGKONG.

The Chinese community of Hongkong will entertain Sir Thomas Jackson to a banquet at the City Hall on Saturday, 10th inst., on the occasion of his departure from the Colony.

Lieut. A. R. Grieve has been appointed Supernumerary Captain, and Mr. H. B. Wheeler Lieutenant in his place, in the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. Mr. J. W. Aitken's resignation of his commission as Lieutenant in the same Corps has been accepted.

It is proposed that the members of the Corps should entertain at dinner on Saturday, the 10th inst., the officers and men of the contingent about to proceed to England for the Coronation ceremonies. The Hon. C. P. Chater has kindly lent his bungalow for the purpose.

The programme gone through by the International Vaudeville Company at the Theatre Royal on the 25th ult. was the largest in point of numbers yet submitted, there being no less than twenty items, exclusive of a pantomime with ballet entitled *A Harbour in the Far East*, and including a very clever sketch called *Lucy Gray's Birthday*. A variety of new features were introduced throughout the evening, all of them with that success which has been such a marked and happy characteristic of the company's entertainments during its season in Hongkong.

Before the Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, R.N., Harbour Master, in the Marine Court on the 25th ult. nineteen junk-owners were charged with having anchored in the southern fairway. The prosecution was at the instance of Mr. Francesco Callaco, inspector of junks, who stated that he had constantly warned junks against this practice, though he could not say that all the defendants were among those whom he had warned, but some were. Defendants explained that they were waiting for a steamer which was due and for which they had cargo. When asked by the Court if they had any excuse to offer, the defendants pleaded only that the wind was strong. A penalty of \$2, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment was imposed in each case.

In a *Government Gazette Extraordinary*, issued on the 26th ult., Pakhoi was declared an infected port.

Mr. C. J. Xavier has been appointed to act as Deputy Registrar and Accountant of the Supreme Court.

In the final tie for the Captain's Cup competition on the Happy Valley golf links on the 27th ult. Mr. McMurtrie, playing a fine game, defeated Mr. Forrest.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week were 241 non-Chinese and 57 Chinese to the former, and 56 non-Chinese and 2,016 Chinese to the latter institution.

Major J. H. Gwynne, 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, has been appointed Military Representative on the Wongneicheong Recreation Ground Committee, vice Captain H. Botherham, R.W.F., on leave.

The Financial Returns for the year 1901, which were laid on the table at the meeting on the 30th ult. of the Legislative Council show that on 31st December last the Colony's total assets were \$2,023,581.60 and the total liabilities \$987,058.06, leaving a balance of \$1,036,523.54, not including arrears of revenue amounting to \$61,132.00.

The health of the police staff in the New Territory was generally much improved last year, says Mr. Ho Nai Hop in his medical report. The number of cases of malarial fever had been much smaller than that of the year previously. Preventive treatments had been vigorously carried out during the season by the use of quinine and arsenic. The use of the former had met with a good effect, and of the latter was practically ineffectual as a preventive measure. One European constable, James New, died of sun-stroke in June at Sheung Shui Station. This was the only case of death among the police which took place in the New Territory during the year.

Fires have been rather frequent of late, and the number is added to by one which broke out in a medicine-shop at 355, Queen's Road Central at ten minutes to one on the 30th ult. Medicine-shops appear to be peculiarly susceptible to the devouring element, and this peculiarity is in no way lessened by the fact that they are invariably insured. In the present case the owner of the shop in question and his accountant are absent from the Colony, but the former will not be seriously inconvenienced by the destruction of his shop, as a cheque for over \$1,000 insurance only awaits his claiming it. Part of the ground floor was sub let to a dried-meat dealer, who is insured in the Union for between \$1,000 and \$2,000. In addition to the total destruction of three floors at No. 355, the premises next door, No. 357, were damaged by water. The cause of the fire, almost needless to say, is unknown.

For 15 years the large cable-drums of the Peak Tramway have been steadily working, hauling the cars up and down the steep incline: many ropes have been worn out in the service, but the ponderous drums round which they coil, to the uninitiated would appear to be indestructible. This is not so, however; by constant slight attrition, due to the straining of the ropes when the load is applied, the grooves in which they run cut deeper until there arose the possibility of their cutting right through and so disabling the service. It was decided to fit a pair of new drums, and the first of these commenced running last Monday morning: residents of the Peak had been warned the previous week that the cars would commence running a little later on the Monday, but as a matter of fact there was no stoppage on that occasion: this was the preliminary trial. The making and fitting of the drums was entrusted to a local firm, Messrs G. Fenwick & Co., Ltd., and as far as possible all work on the line was done between night and morning. The wheel, 4 tons in weight, was hauled up one night and placed out of the way of traffic at the top; another night was spent in taking off the old drum and trying on the new; and finally last Sunday the service was stopped at 8 p.m. and the new wheel made its first revolution about 10 the next morning. The second wheel is nearly ready and will be fitted in place when a suitable opportunity occurs; both are excellent castings and speak well for the resource of the Wanchai establishment. The Tramway Co.'s staff had several nights of arduous toil, and the whole job reflects credit on all concerned.

Mr. F. G. Figg has been appointed Director of the Hongkong Observatory during the absence on leave of Mr. W. Doberck.

On the 26th ult., Chief Detective Inspector Hanson handed over to the Chinese authorities on board the gunboat *Fuk Po* four prisoners who have been indicted on charges of robbery within the jurisdiction of the Emperor of China.

The first floor of a godown belonging to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and situated between the Post Office and Des Voeux Road, collapsed on the 1st inst., precipitating a number of coolies into the basement but without causing serious injury to any of them.

The comparative statement of stamp revenue for the first quarters of 1901 and 1902 shows a decrease in the latter period of \$24,930.41. The principal items of the decrease were:—Conveyance or Assignment, \$24,835.45; Settlement, \$2,819.30; Adhesive Stamps, \$2,151.62. The chief increase was:—Banknote Duty, \$5,327.52.

In his report upon Public Works in the New Territory during 1901, Hon. W. Chatham says that at the leper village near An Tau twelve wooden huts for lepers were erected and enclosed in a bamboo fence at a cost of \$2,199.70. The lepers formerly occupied some miserable hovels situated in a swampy piece of land.

Of four cases of suicide examined by Mr. Ho Nai Hop in the New Territory last year two were committed through the use of a poisonous herb named *ho min tang*, one by hanging, and the other by opium poisoning. The poisonous leaves found in the stomach of the deceased by post-mortem examination were forwarded to the Government Analyst for chemical examination and were found to contain the active principle of the alkaloid gelsemine. This herb grows wild on the hill and can be found anywhere. It is alleged that only about three leaves would be sufficient for a fatal dose. In committing suicide this herb is most commonly used among the Hakka people, as it is easily available and requires only a small quantity to cause rapid collapse and death.

In his medical report upon the New Territory for 1901, Dr. J. M. Akinson says:—In my opinion there should be at least two resident Medical Officers, one for the East and another for the West of the New Territory; the one in the West might be stationed at Un Long or Ping Shan, and the one in the East as at present at Tai Po; the work is much too arduous for one, the distances he has to travel are very great and it is practically impossible for him to do justice to the large resident population; in addition to this he can never get away on leave. Another important requirement is a registration of births and deaths. It must be remembered that all the Chinese living in the New Territory are British subjects and several cases of infanticide have already occurred; in order to check the native practice of abandoning their female children, some such measure is necessary. I would suggest that each Police Station should be a place for registration.

On the 25th ult., in the Union Church Hall, the Rev. G. J. and Mrs. Williams, who left for home on Wednesday, the 30th ult., by the German mail steamer *König Albert*, were made the recipients of presentations from the members of the Christian Endeavour Society and the soldiers and sailors on the China Station. That from the soldiers and sailors consisted of an exceedingly handsome carved blackwood writing desk and a study chair of the same material and an inkstand with silver bottle. The desk had silver catches consisting of the Chinese characters for longevity, prosperity, happiness, etc., and on a large silver plate was engraved the following inscription:—"Presented to the Reverend G. J. and Mrs. Williams by the Soldiers and Sailors of Hongkong, 25th April, 1902." Mr. Williams also received an illuminated address surmounted by a photograph of the Union Church; the address was on view in the Church Hall yesterday, and was greatly admired. From the members of the Christian Endeavour Society Mrs. Williams received a silver glove-box appropriately inscribed, and from the Ladies' Committee of the church a silver rose-bowl on a blackwood stand; both gifts were very handsome. Mr. Williams preached a farewell sermon on the 27th ult. The best wishes of a very large circle of friends will go with Mr. and Mrs. Williams on their departure from the Colony.

The Rev. H. R. Wells, Mr. C. Clementi and Mr. A. Seth have been appointed by His Excellency to be members of the Board of Examiners.

Mr. J. Macdonald, Assistant Government Marine Surveyor, on his return from leave, has been appointed Acting Government Marine Surveyor.

We learn that some changes have taken place in the executive staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd. Mr. E. J. Main, late Harbour Engineer at the Cosmopolitan Dock, has been appointed Superintendent Engineer at Kowloon Docks, in place of Mr. W. C. Jack, who has been promoted to the post of Assistant Manager at the same establishment in charge of the new shipbuilding and engineering department.

About 1 p.m. on the 27th ult. fire broke out at No. 73, Jervois Street, and, fanned by a strong breeze, spread rapidly to the houses on each side, Nos. 71 and 75, both of which were seriously damaged. No. 73 was gutted. The flames also caught hold on No. 12A, Burd Street, situated at the back of Jervois Street, but the firemen succeeded in overcoming them before they gained headway in this direction. P. C. Aris was slightly injured by falling debris and was taken to hospital. Neither the cause of the outbreak nor the damage caused by it is known. No. 73 was insured for \$11,000. An alarm of fire was raised in Victoria Barracks on the 26th ult., but the outbreak was easily extinguished by the occupants. The damage was trifling.

H.M.S. *Blenheim* and *Glory* left for Mirs Bay on the 25th ult.

On the 27th ult. H.M.S. *Glory* returned from Mirs Bay and H.M. sloop *Algerine* arrived from Weihaiwei.

H.M.S. *Elipse* left for Mirs Bay on the 28th ult.

H.M. battleships *Albion*, *Glory*, and *Ocean*, cruisers *Argonaut* and *Blenheim*, and despatch-vessel *Alacrity* all left the harbour on the 1st inst. for Japan and summer quarters. The six vessels presented a fine sight as they steamed out in single file.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 2nd May.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd May.—The tone of the market has improved and the prices are going upward. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.30 to \$8.35 per cwt.
do. " 2, White.....	6.95 to 30.0 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.90 to 5.95 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.15 to 8.20 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	5.85 to 5.90 "
do. " 1, Brown ...	5.80 to 5.85 "
do. " 2, Brown ...	5.70 to 5.75 "
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.15 to 12.20 "
Shekloong "	9.80 to 9.85 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd May.—The upward tendency continues, market being firm. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.80 to 2.85
" Round, Good quality	3.90 to 3.95
" Long	4.05 to 4.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.95 to 3.00
" Garden, " No. 1	3.65 to 3.70
" White.....	4.00 to 4.05
" Fine Cargo	4.25 to 4.30

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per Imperial German Mail *Stuttgart* sailed on the 16th April. For Palawan:—163 rolls matting. For Aden:—10 bundles cassia, 3 cases silkpiecgoods. For Beyrouth:—10 bales waste silk. For Naples:—1 case silkpiecgoods. For Trieste:—360 bales rattan shavings. For Genoa:—250 bales waste silk, 239 bales raw silk, 100 boxes cassia, 26 rolls matting, 5 cases palmleaffans, 5 boxes preserves, 2 pkgs. rattans. For Antwerp:—200 bales bambooscraps, 86 rolls matting, 57 cases private effects, 45 bales canes, 34 bales feathers, 24 cases Chinaware, 24 cases camphorwoodtrunks, 10 cases curios, 4 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases sundries, 1 box bambooware. For Amsterdam:—36 cases tea-stick, 29 cases Chinaware, 26 rolls matting, 10 cases fans, 3 boxes bambooware, 3 boxes camphorwoodtrunks. For Rotterdam:—42 casks

ginger, 40 cases ginger, 20 bales canes 18 boxes Chinaware, 10 boxes cassia budstems. For Rotterdam/Hamburg:—3 cases paper. For Bremen:—11 cases effects. For Hamburg:—349 bales feathers, 106 bales canes, 57 rolls matting, 14 boxes human hair, 10 cases paper, 4 boxes bristles, 4 pkgs. tea, 2 cases blackwoodware. For London:—50 bales waste silk, 10 boxes Chinaware.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd May.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PISCE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 400 bales No. 6 at \$84 to \$87, 150 bales No. 8 at \$89.50 to \$90, 850 bales No. 10 at \$84 to \$99.50, 1,000 bales No. 12 at \$95.50 to \$101, 300 bales No. 16 at \$108 to \$115, 850 bales No. 20 at \$117.50 to \$122. Drill:—300 pieces 14 lbs. Peacock at \$4.70.

per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....\$81.00 to \$123.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.10 to 2.20
7 lbs. 2.25 to 2.50
8.4 lbs. 3.00 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs. 3.75 to 4.75
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.45 to 2.75
58 to 60 " 3.20 to 4.20
64 to 66 " 4.30 to 5.10
Fine 5.30 to 7.50
Book-folds 4.35 to 6.75

Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... 0.75 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.75 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.05 to 2.35
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 2.10 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.85 to 3.40
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.10 to 3.60
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs. 4.10 to 6.85

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5 lbs } 1.60 to 5.00

DAMASKS—

per yard
Chintzes—Assorted 0.68 to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.24 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in. 0.22 to 0.30

per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 3.00

WOOLLENS—

per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.65 to 2.00
German 1.25 to 3.00
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.00

per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 6.50 to 8.50
Assorted 6.60 to 8.65
Camlets—Assorted 12.00 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 12.00 to 16.00
Assorted }

per pair
Orleans—Plain 8.00 to 9.50
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.00 to 9.00

METALS—

per picul
Iron—Nail Rod 4.60 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng. 4.60 to —
Swedish Bar 4.85 to —
Small Round Rod 4.90 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 6.00 to —
Wire, 16/25, 8.20 to —
Old Wire Rope 2.40 to —
Pig Non 35.50 to 36.50
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop 8.50 to —
Australian 8.40 to —

METALS—

per picul
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz. 41.00 to —
Composition Nails 61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs 39.00 to —
Tin 74.00 to —

per box.
Tin-Plates 8.30 to —
per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ¾ 5.90 to —

SUNDRIES—

per picul
Quicksilver 174.50 to —
per box.
Window Glass 6.00 to —
per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil 2.10 to —

SHANGHAI, 24th April (from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report):—The market has been described to us by Natives as "being strong but there is no business," and this quaint expression will be easily understood by those intimately connected with the position of affairs. Business practically impossible when the last mail left has now been rendered out of the question owing to the further decline in exchange and the few transactions that appear may be put down to sales among dealers. There is, however, some enquiry, and dealers evidently have some orders to fill, but as they have, so far, only submitted offers on the basis of the exchange ruling a fortnight ago, nothing has been done. Another pleasing feature is the continued inclination of the various consuming markets to take goods, and as it is only natural to assume that prices will eventually adjust themselves despite the present awkward situation, the position is not so hopeless. It is also understood that supplies, both here and to arrive, are not excessive and a check that they will not be overdone may be looked for in the continued strength of the home markets. As stated above, clearances continue satisfactory, and while they show a slight falling off for Tientsin and Newchwang, they show an improvement for the River Ports and Szechuen.

Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld and Co. say in their Metals and Miscellaneous Report of 25th April:—Once again we have nothing to report either in metals or sundries. With exchange down to 2s. 3½d. to the tael, those holding stocks find themselves absolutely unable to realise cost price, and cannot think of forward business. Importers cannot quote terms near offers, nor can they afford to import cargo for spot offers. There is at present no prospect of betterment in exchange, so that the outlook is not a bright one.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd May.—Business generally continues very restricted in volume, and the transactions recorded do not call for any special remarks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after advancing to \$600 are easier at that figure with probable sellers. London is unchanged at £63.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request, and small lots can be placed at \$700. China Traders have steadily improved and can now be placed at \$56. North Chinas, Yangtszes, and Cant ns are enquired for at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue on offer at \$340, and Chinas at \$80.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$384, and a few more shares can be obtained at the rate. Indo-Chinas after receding to \$122 are firmer with buyers to some extent at \$125. China and Manilas have strengthened, and after sales at \$37, \$39 and \$40, can now be placed at \$40½. Douglasses have changed ownership at \$43, and a few are enquired for at \$43½. China Mutuals and Shell Transports are unchanged. Star Ferries can be obtained at \$3 (old), and \$12 (new), the latter scrip being now \$5 paid up.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue to rule quiet, and can probably be obtained at \$122. Luzons are unchanged at \$25 sellers.

MINING.—Nothing of interest has transpired under this heading during the interval.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have still further receded, and are now obtainable at \$245. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold at \$89 and \$90 and are still obtainable at the latter quotation. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$35.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after sales at \$184 are on further offer at the quotation. Kowloon Lands have sold and are offering further at \$30. West Points are neglected at \$55. Hongkong Hotels have been taken off the market at \$139. Humphreys Estates have sold to a considerable extent at \$12 and are in further request.

COTTON MILLS.—In the North, Ewos have advanced to Tls. 46, and Laou Kung Mows to Tls. 45. Hongkong Spinnings have sold at various rates between \$16 and \$17 and close quiet at the latter figure.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been placed at \$21½. Watsons have sold at \$14½ and can still be obtained. Electrics (old) have been booked at \$14 and (new) at \$7,

and further shares are obtainable. Fenwicks are wanted at the slightly improved rate of \$43. Ices can be placed at \$24½. Ropes continue on offer at \$145 without attracting attention. China Providents have sold at various rates between \$9.75 and \$9.90, closing with buyers at the former rate. China Light and Powers can be obtained to a small extent at \$15.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$600. L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares	21	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$21, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$25, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$122.
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 46.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Soychee	Tls. 600	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$43, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21½, sales
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$14, sellers
H. H. J. Tramways	\$100	\$330, buyers
Hk. Steam Water	\$15	\$8, buyers
bont Co., Ltd.		
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$139.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$90, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$145, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$245, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$170, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$80, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$56, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 190, buyers
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$390, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$123, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$182½, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sales & sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$35, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$550.
Jelebu	\$5	\$3, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	nominal.
Olivers' Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4	nominal.
Punjoni	\$10	\$5½, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$14, sellers
Ranb	18	\$9.
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$35, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$50, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$55.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	{ \$404, buyers nominal
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$10, 10c., buyers
Do. Ordinary	\$7.10	\$7.10, sellers
Do. Bonus	25	\$25, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$43½, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$38½, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$210	\$125, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$21	\$22, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$23, sellers \$12, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.
United Abestos	\$4	\$10, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$250, sellers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$15, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$61, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers

VERNON SMYTH, & Brokers.

Shanghai, 23rd April (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been brisk during the week, but there is no improvement to report save in Cotton Mill shares, which have received a little attention. MARINE INSURANCE.—The North China Insurance Co. will pay an interim dividend of one Pound Sterling at exchange 2:4d. on 1st May. SUGAR COMPANIES.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 77½. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares have changed hands at very irregular rates. Business was reported at Tls. 8.40 for cash and for April, 8.75 to 8.20 for June, 8.50 to 8.30 for July, 8.60 for August and 8.40 to 8.70 for September. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ltd. A fair amount of business was done at declining rates, Tls. 257½/250 cash, 257½/252½ for April, 260/257½ for May, 260 for June, 267½/262½ for July and 271½/270 for September. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 270. LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 107. Weihaiwei shares are offering at Tls. 2½ and wanted at 18. INDUSTRIAL.—In Cotton Mill shares business was done:—Ewo's at Tls. 40, Internationals at Tls. 27½/35, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 42/43. Shanghai Pulp and Paper shares were sold at Tls. 110/112½/108 cash and 114 for July; S. Montrie and Co.'s shares at \$80/58. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Co-operative Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 127½. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co. shares were placed at Tls. 43/46 cash and 43 for April. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Co. shares were sold at very irregular rates, cash shares being done at Tls. 280 to 300 and closing at 285; April shares at 280 to 325, closing at 280; July shares at 290/315, August shares at 310, September shares at 305/315, and October shares at 305 to 320, closing at 305. Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—The report and accounts for year ending December 31st last have been published for presentation at the meeting of shareholders called for the 24th inst. The net profits on the year's working amount to Tls. 25,440.22, equal to 28.26 on the capital, as against 11.95 in the previous year. Including the balance brought forward, Tls. 16,002.05, there is available for distribution Tls. 41,442.27, which the Directors recommend to be appropriated as follows:—Payment of 10 per cent. dividend and bonus of 5 per cent., absorbing Tls. 15,300, and carrying forward to new account Tls. 26,142.27. Hall and Holtz, Ltd. The report and accounts for the year ending February last have been published for presentation at the meeting of shareholders called for the 26th inst. The net profits are \$80,618.83 equal to 30.72 on the capital, as against 16 per cent. in the previous year. Including \$13,561.95 brought forward from last year, and deducting interim dividend of \$2 per share paid in October, there is available for distribution \$67,038.78, which the directors recommend to be appropriated as follows: Final dividend of \$2 per share, amounting to \$26,242, writing off Factory Property, Fixtures, etc., \$6,949.67, transferring to Reserve Fund \$17,500, and to carry forward the balance \$17,247.11 to new account. Shares were sold at \$41. Shares in Weeks & Co. were sold at \$25, and Hotel des Colonies shares at Tls. 22½. LOANS.—Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 95.

SHANGHAI, 30th April.—The market has been rather dragging during the week, with a weak and irregular tendency. MARINE INSURANCE.—There is no local business reported. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S.N. shares changed hands at Tls. 94/92/93 cash, 95/98/96 for to-day, 96/97/95 for June, 98 to 95 for July, 96 for August, 99/97 for September, and 100 for October. The closing cash rate is 93. SUGAR COMPANIES.—China Sugar Refining shares were sold at \$125. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares were sold at Tls. 8.40/8.75 cash, 8.50/9.10 for June, 9.10 for July, 9.20 for August, and 8.70/9.30 for September. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. shares were placed at Tls. 252.50 255 cash and for delivery to-day, 252.50/257.50 for May, 262.25/265 for July, 262.50 for August, and 267.50 for September. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 275. LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 107 and are wanted. INDUSTRIAL.—Shanghai Gas shares were sold at Tls. 120. Ewo Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 41 cash, and Internationals at Tls. 40 cash and 45 for October. China Flour Mill shares were placed at Tls. 44; Shanghai Pulp and Paper Mill shares at Tls. 112.50 and 110.50. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 130 and Taku Tug and Lighter shares at Tls. 175. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai-Sumatra

Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 46 cash, 47 for May and 48 for July. Business was done in Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 280/285 cash, 290/287.50 for May, 305 for August, and 305/310 for September. The Liquidators have declared a dividend of Tls. 5 per share payable on the 10th May. Weeks and Co. shares changed hands at \$26, Hotel des Colonies shares at Tls. 22.50, and 25 and E. L. Mondon shares at Tls. 55. LOANS.—Debentures were sold:—Land 5 per cent. at Tls. 95, and 6 per cent. at 103; and Water-works 6 per cent. at Tls. 113.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 3rd May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/7½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.09½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.13½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.70½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	40½
Credits, 60 days' sight	41½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	124½
Bank, on demand	125
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	124½
Bank, on demand	125
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	74½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	21½ p.c. pm
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	½ p.c. pm
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
On demand	10½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
On demand	½ p.c. pm
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
On demand	½ p.c. pm
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	11.86
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	61 75
BAR SILVER per oz.	23½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Inaba Maru (str.).	
FOR LONDON.—Coromandel (str.), Glaucus (str.), Japan (str.), Machaon (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Stentor (str.), Alcinous (str.), Kaisow (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).	
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Achilles (str.), Peleus (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.—Indus (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.), Inaba Maru (str.), Japan (str.).	
FOR BREMEN.—Princess Irene (str.), Segovia (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Adria (str.), Saxonica (str.), Sambia (str.), Serbia (str.), Suevia (str.), Strassburg (str.), Silesia (str.).	
FOR TRIESTE.—Austria (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Clavering (str.), Kaga Maru (str.), Tosa Maru (str.).	
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.), Athenian (str.).	
FOR NEW YORK.—Spithead (str.), Queensland (str.), Mogul (str.).	
FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—Indravelli (str.).	
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Tsinan (str.), Yawata Maru (str.), Australian (str.).	
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Milke Maru (str.).	
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—Bisagno (str.).	

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—

- 25, Lucia, Austrian str., from Samarang.
- 25, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 26, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 26, Chingwo, British str., from Shanghai.
- 26, Flandria, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 26, Lye moon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 26, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 26, Koyo Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 26, Auping, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 26, Kwoiyang, British str., from Canton.
- 26, Maidanru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 26, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
- 26, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
- 26, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 27, Alg-rine, British sloop, from Weihaiwei.
- 27, Austria, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 27, Elita Nossick, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 27, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
- 27, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 27, Glory, British battleship, from Mira Bay.
- 27, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsai.
- 27, Indravelli, British str., from Shanghai.
- 27, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 27, Ness, British str., from Moji.
- 27, Segovia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 27, Shansi, British str., from Canton.
- 27, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
- 27, Vestal, British sloop, from Swatow.
- 27, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28, Alesia, German str., from Manila.
- 28, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.
- 28, Gloucester City, British str., from Saigon.
- 28, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 28, Konig Albert, German str., from Y'hama.
- 28, Mazagon, British str., from Bombay.
- 28, Tataros, German str., from Saigon.
- 28, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
- 28, Clavering, British str., from Tacoma.
- 28, Comet, British 4-m. bge., from Kobe.
- 28, Diomed, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28, Fortarshire, British bge., from Geraldton.
- 29, Blenheim, British cruiser, from Mira Bay.
- 29, Candia, British str., from Shanghai.
- 29, Chelydra, British str., from Moji.
- 29, Frithjap, Norwegian str., from Penarth.
- 29, Mara Kolb, German str., from Moji.
- 29, Maristow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 29, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 29, Onsang, British str., from Moji.
- 29, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 29, Argo, Norwegian str., from Cardiff.
- 29, Changsha, British str., from Australia.
- 29, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 29, De ima, German str., from Manila.
- 29, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 30, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
- 30, Nanshan, British str., from Bangkok.
- 30, Sandakan, German str., from Sandakan.
- 30, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 30, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.

May—

- 1, Agamemnon, British str., from Liverpool.
- 1, Faussang, British str., from Taku.
- 1, Guthrie, British str., from Australia.
- 1, Heim, Norwegian str., from Tsingtau.
- 1, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 1, Moyune, British str., from Singapore.
- 1, Rinaldo, British gunboat, from Amoy.
- 1, Flandria, German str., from Canton.
- 1, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 2, Benlomond, British str., from Singapore.
- 2, Frigga, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 2, Hsinfung, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Kong Beng, German str., from Bangkok.
- 2, Kulsang, British str., from Saigon.
- 2, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
- 2, P. R. Luitpold, German str., from Bremen.
- 2, Serbia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 2, Shantung, British str., from Hongay.
- 2, Taileo, German str., from Deli.
- 2, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
- 3, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
- 3, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 3, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 3, Indus, French str., from Yokohama.
- 3, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 3, P. C. Klao, German str., from Bangkok.
- 3, S. Rickmers, British str., from N'hwang.
- 3, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 3, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 3, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
- 4, Elg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.

4, Hangchow, British str., from Swatow.
4, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.

DEPARTURES.

26, Bengal, British str., for Europe.
26, Daphne, German str., for Singapore.
26, Glaucus, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Glenogle, British str., for Tacoma.
26, Hansa, German cruiser, for Tsintau.
26, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
26, Marie-Jebson, German str., for Amoy.
26, Satsuma, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Sumatra, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Trym, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
26, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
27, Hangchow, British str., for Ningpo.
27, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., for Saigon.
27, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
27, Flandria, German str., for Canton.
27, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
27, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
27, Koyo Ma u, Japanese str., for Canton.
27, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
27, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
28, Eclipse, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
28, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
28, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
28, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
28, Taiyuan, British str., for Sydney.
28, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
29, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
29, Antonio Macleod, Amr. str., for Iloilo.
29, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
29, Diomed, British str., for London.
29, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
29, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
29, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
29, Mazagon, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
30, Austria, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
30, Cheungchew, British str., for Amoy.
30, Chingwo, British str., for Saigon.
30, Chwanshan, British str., for Swatow.
30, Germania, German str., for Singapore.
30, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
30, Konig Albert, German str., for Europe.
30, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
30, Maristow, British str., for New York.
30, Nanchang, British str., for Weihaiwei.
30, Ness, British str., for Moji.
30, Segovia, German str., for Hamburg.
30, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
30, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.

May—

1, Alacrity, British des.-ves., for Japan.
1, Albion, British battleship, for Japan.
1, Argonaut, British battleship, for Japan.
1, Blenheim, British cruiser, for Japan.
1, Glory, British battleship, for Japan.
1, Ocean, British battleship, for Japan.
1, Alesia, German str., for Japan.
1, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
1, Candia, British str., for London.
1, Heim, Norwegian str., for Canton.
1, Hinsang, British str., for Singapore.
1, Koyo Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
1, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
1, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
1, Peluse, British str., for Foochow.
1, Sullberg, German str., for Haiphong.
1, Taifu, German str., for Singapore.
2, Albion, British str., for Bangkok.
2, Decima, German str., for Swatow.
2, Fausang, British str., for Canton.
2, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
2, Hermann Menzell, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
2, Kwanglee Chinese str., for Shanghai.
2, Moyune, British str., for Shanghai.
2, P. R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
2, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
3, Agamemnon, British str., for Shanghai.
3, Benlmond, British str., for Nagasaki.
3, Chelydra, British str., for Saigon.
3, Gloucester City, British str., for Saigon.
3, Hsinfung, Chinese str., for Canton.
3, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for London.
3, Mara Kolb, German str., for Moji.
3, Prinz R. Luitpold, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
3, Pronto, German str., for Haiphong.
3, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
3, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
4, Daiji Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
4, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
4, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
4, Serbia, German str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. Beston and child, Miss Henderson, Messrs. H. Figge, H. Heyn, C. W. May, E. A. Merner, E. Kadoorie and Pilkington; for Singapore, Mr. F. W. Newsom; for Colombo, Mr. C. W. Banks; for London, Mrs. and Miss Ballard and four children, Messrs. T. A. De Croix, G. Ausin, C. B. Kaye, J. Cantwell, Wm. Hodgson, W. B. Ellis and H. H. Prince Tsai Chen and suite.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Messrs. R. V. H. Dennis, D. Travers, J. Smitz, O. E. Milner, Capt. Taylor, Messrs. J. Scott, F. H. Delano, B. A. Alyso, Mr. and Mrs. Parkins, Messrs. C. Mageer, W. R. Roserans, and S. C. McKett.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr. F. J. Figueras, Mrs. L. Basa and child, Mrs. A. M. Whitten, Mr. T. J. R. Reynolds, Masters Ossorio (3), Messrs. Q. K. Porter, H. H. Stansbury, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Elizaldo and children, Messrs. E. J. Johnson, H. Gray, and W. H. Donovan.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Miss Focken, Messrs. Baker and Begley, Revs. Gonzola Marin and E. Garcia and Dr. Wilkinson.

Per *Tosa Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. K. W. Maunsey and Mr. E. J. Merrill; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Behl and two children.

Per American Mail, from San Francisco, Mrs. J. F. Larken, Mrs. F. Allen, Miss A. Wieland, Messrs. J. C. Crunshaw, C. H. Alike, F. Helm, L. F. Potter and J. M. Welburn.

Per *Konig Albert*, from Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. Taylos and Corillo; from Kobe, Mr. Seeds; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Sugetsugu, Messrs. Sea, Philipps and Damson; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Harking, Colonel Bertie, Messrs. Sengnon, Faechs, Bonnet, Hermann, Kohler, Koppen and Bartello Rozario.

Per *Mausang*, from Sandakan, Messrs. Johnson and Kollicker.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Rev. G. Johnson, Messrs. McGowan, A. V. Wesheit and P. Nielsen.

Per *Mara Kolb*, from Moji, Capt. F. Biermann.

Per *Yawata Maru*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Dr. J. S. Hough, Messrs. H. E. Sperry, H. E. O. Bird, G. E. Edwa, K. Ohshima and N. Yakushiji; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. S. Levy, Mr. W. P. McElhone, Miss McElhone, Hon. W. C. Hill and Misses L. and E. Hill, Mr. P. Mack and Misses I. M. and V. Mack, Messrs. Deatchlor, A. Smith and R. Grey; for Melbourne, Miss I. G. Fisher.

Per *Haimun*, from Amoy, &c., Mrs. Coghill and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Remedios and four children, Messrs. Hassau, J. Coyne and A. da C. Roza.

Per *Changsha*, from Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, Master David Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. C. Darling, Mr. and Mrs. Scripps, Dr. and Mrs. Harston, Mrs. Grimble, Lieuts. Rays and Leary, Messrs. C. Allan, T. Guy, Glover, Chenwell, Lode, Masson, Frenchy, Butchard, D. McCullum, C. McCullum, Amoto Joe and Asaki.

Per *Guthrie*, from Australia, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Rae, Mr. and Mrs. Emil von Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lippy, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Field, Mr. and Mrs. Glazebrook, Misses Madge and Doris Glazebrook and Master John Glazebrook, Mr. and Mrs. W. Choe, Misses Oda Ros and Alice Chee, Master Ernest Chee, Misses Little and Brustein, Messrs. Webb, Fred. C. Donison, Raf Herrmann, A. E. Cameron, L. Fitzgerald, N. Stomore and A. E. Singleton.

Per *Kamakura Maru*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. A. Jorge, Mrs. F. C. Frischling and two children, Messrs. Wm. Friedlander, Maxschluter and Y. Ito; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Plummer; for Colombo, Messrs. H. Bowman and M. Edalji; for Marseilles, Messrs. J. Stenhouse, J. Jaspersen, K. Takahashi, S. Nishimura, M. Kino and S. Mikami; for London, Mrs. Paxton, Miss Stenhouse, Messrs. D. Sout, A. M. Morton, C. W. Puckett, A. E. Remeie, J. B. Hood, K. Nomata, H. Miyakawa and R. Katabira.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Roach and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Warren and Mr. Antonio Osario.

DEPARTED.

Per *Shinano Maru*, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Nicholson.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Desart, Mr. and Mrs. Nagaoka, Miss Moton, Capt. Sawa, Master Macmillan, Messrs. Lucas, Paxton, Walker, Nakajima, Fujiwasa, Sawada, Nakai, Murayama and Masumura.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, for Japan, Major and Mrs. Cruse, Mr. and Mrs. Treadway, Mr. and Mrs. D. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon, Mr. and Mrs. H. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Wagstaff, Mrs. Goalen, Mr. and Mrs. Carrell, Mrs. and Miss Clutton, Lady and Miss McEachan, Mrs. Pearce, Sir Malcolm, Dr. McEachan, Capt. W. O. Goalen, Capt. Monrn, Rev. Trodshan, Misses E. Davis, J. Riley and Abbott, Messrs. Vernon, Hay, Knowles, J. Kern, Neil McEachan, S. Knox, R. M. Smith, C. A. Bayer, F. O. Tolley, R. H. Dunn, H. Tisch, Jeldwitz, Cohen, Yokoyama, Murakawa and Taragaga.

Per *Bengal*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Hon. Rt. Townley, Messrs. R. E. Kozhevar, Kokenbeck and P. V. Davies; for Sydney, Miss Withers; for Bombay, Mr. R. D. Bellimoria and Pte. Fibby; for London, Mrs. and Miss Tuzo, Mrs. Witton, Sub-Comdr. and Mrs. Cockburn and two children, Sergt. and Mrs. King and infant, Comdr. Carey, Capt. Smith, Messrs. F. R. Smith and Black.

Per American Mail, for Shanghai, Messrs. R. H. Newborn, R. Hutton Potts, J. A. Jupp, Alveque, F. Dobrowohl and H. Baker; for Nagasaki, Capt. F. H. Delano and Mr. L. W. Smith; for Yokohama, Mrs. Parkin, Messrs. H. A. Parkin, V. E. Miller, Joseph Smith, W. R. Rosenkrans, B. Albro, C. H. Magee and Y. Akiyama; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. C. Bradley, Major and Mrs. Lee, Mrs. F. H. Hilbert, Miss Hock, Mr. and Miss Godard, Messrs. G. N. Taggart, A. G. Dufetre, M. Levy, A. Schroeder, C. H. Hind, H. H. Stansbury, J. Scott, J. L. Upham, A. D. Gibbs and F. O. Moule.

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